

Northerners find few friends in southern Yemeni town

By Jonathan Wright
Reuters

AL HOUTAH, Yemen — Northern Yemeni troops have found few friends in the southern town of Al Houtah, the capital of Lahej province and probably the most heavily populated town to come under northern control in a month of war.

Some of the residents are outright secessionists who now believe they are living under occupation. Even Yemeni nationalists in the town, 35 kilometres northwest of the southern capital Aden, want the northern army to leave them alone.

Southern troops pulled out of Al Houtah last Wednesday, but most of the local people have stayed, setting the Sanaa government its first serious test in administering a large concentration of southerners.

The other two southern provinces under northern control — Abyan to the east of Lahej and Shabwa on the edges of the Empty Quarter — have a history of opposition to the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled the south until unity in 1990.

There the Sanaa government has sponsored friendly militias and many of the local people have dispersed to the countryside.

But in Al Houtah, the market town for the farming villages in the fertile Tuban Valley, the atmosphere is rather more tense.

On Sunday, army vehicles with megaphones cruised the crowded streets blaring out patriotic songs and appeals to the inhabitants to cooperate with their new rulers.

"We will not accept occupation. We will not live under your rule... the southern people are a stubborn people and they will never surrender," Fadel Ahmad Salem told army lieutenant Walid Al Haden in one confrontation in the marketplace.

"Everyone has the right to defend himself, including the YSP," he added, challenging in a sweep the whole basis for the Sanaa government's war effort.

Sanaa says members of the YSP-dominated army in the south are rebels, criminals and traitors.

Mr. Salem was perhaps the most outspoken of the townspeople on Sunday but others also said they favoured southern secession and, out of about 20 chosen at random, none was wholeheartedly behind the unionist army.

"The forces of union must move their army away from the towns. People are dying a

thousands deaths a day from fear, especially the women and children," said Adnan Al Sayed Ali.

The sound of shelling to the south was clearly audible on Sunday though the town was largely unscathed in the fighting.

The main casualty of the war in Al Houtah was the local power station, which is now out of operation. Shortages of water and electricity were recurrent complaints.

If the townsfolk agreed on anything, it was that the war was a waste and should stop immediately.

"There must be a ceasefire and dialogue. Restore peace and security and stop Yemeni forces destroying each other," said Sheikh Ghalib Al Khawaja.

"We want peace, not that side or this side. Both sides want gains at the expense of the people. We want new elections for new leaders to build a new state," said Saad Ahmad.

"We want to live. We don't want to be like Somalia or Rwanda. The big states must intervene to protect the poor before our kids are killed."

Abdul Aziz Fadel, a mango seller who lost his house in fighting at nearby Al Anad, agreed. "To tell with the two Alis (Yemeni president Ali Saleh Abdullah and southern leader Ali Salem Al Beidh). We want new people for the people."

Ahmad Abdullah echoed the view in Sanaa that the YSP and sympathetic Gulf states were responsible for the war but he too favoured a ceasefire to stop the destruction.

Lieutenant Haderi listened in dismay to the complaints of the townspeople. His civilian companions intervened when he tried to make them stop talking and disperse.

"We have to listen to their opinions. They have a right to speak," said a television reporter from Sanaa.

The townsfolk, educated for more than 20 years in Marxist civic virtues, complained bitterly that northern troops had looted government offices or opened YSP-run institutions to looting by the local population. It was not possible to check these allegations.

"They stole the money from the bank. They ransacked the education department, and stole all the equipment," said one man.

"They told people they could take anything and that's completely wrong because these things belong to the government," said Farid Abdul Hamid, a student.

Aden search for water

AFP reports: Hundreds of people wandered the streets of Aden on Monday in a desperate search for water, as the north announced a ceasefire in Yemen's month-long war.

Residents had been left without drinking water for two days after northern troops bombed a pumping station at Bir Nasser, 15 kilometres from Aden.

"We have not got a single drop of water at home," said civil servant Ibrahim Hammad, squatting down to wait in a long queue of people at an artesian well, sunk in 1940 under the British mandate.

Everywhere else in the port city of 500,000 inhabitants, people rushed to wells and reservoirs.

Ali Mahfouz, also a civil servant, lowered a roped bucket into a well at Maalla near the port before his children, aged 8 and 10, took the water back to the car.

Inhabitants complained the water they were driven to collect was dirty. "The must re-pare the pumping station, the wells are polluted," Mahmoud Ibrahim said.

Families boiled water before using it.

Electricity supplies have also been rationed in Aden and petrol stations were closed. The south's only oil refinery at Little Aden, 15 kilometres west of the city, was set ablaze in two northern air raids on Sunday.

The attacks came as northern forces advanced on the city.

Ahead of the ceasefire, areas near Aden airport came under artillery fire for the second straight day. At least eight people have been killed in the shelling since Sunday, hospitals said.

The streets were deserted earlier as northern troops tightened the noose around Aden.

In Cairo, Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid welcomed Sanaa's acceptance of a ceasefire, saying it was a "first step" towards halting the bloodshed in Yemen.

"This decision is an important measure and a positive response from the Yemeni leadership to efforts underway to maintain security and stability in Yemen," he told AFP.

"It is also a positive first step and calls for increased efforts to resume dialogue in Yemen and to halt the bloodshed in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 924," said the chief of the league.



A Yemeni woman and her son, wounded in the civil war, lie on a bed in an Aden hospital

Media flock to Jericho rooftops to record Arafat's entry

By Marjiam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

JERICHO — As Palestine Liberation Organisation Chairman Yasser Arafat prepares to enter Jericho and Gaza this month to officially inaugurate self-rule for Palestinians in these areas, landlords are hoping to make a financial gain of his return and the media army which is expected to accompany him.

Rooms and rooftops were the most "in demand" items this week as media representatives head to this oasis town. All the major television networks and satellite beaming stations need to rent at least two rooms and a roof, landlords say.

Because Israeli security around the Palestinian enclave is expected to be even tighter than when the Palestinian police and security forces entered in May, most media people believe that they will have to stay in Jericho at least for one night if not more.

"The Israelis must not let us out of Jericho to send our feeds from Jerusalem as we usually do — so the European Broadcasting Union will set up a satellite station in Jericho," said the Jerusalem-based BBC producer.

Roofs on the other hand, says CBC's Middle East correspondent Paul Workman will be "even more important for the actual coverage". Since no one knows from where Chairman Arafat and his entourage will enter Jericho most television stations are renting two rooftops to get best coverage of his arrival.

The going cost for a spot on a roof is between \$1,000 and \$3,000. Accommodation and office space are going for similar rates. Most leases are being made for a one month period starting June 1. The \$1,000-\$3,000 is often being asked just for the day of Arafat's arrival while television stations renting whole roof tops are being charged \$10,000 for the use of the roof for the whole month of June.

The biggest clients, as in the Gulf war are the American and Japanese networks. European and other more thrifty media organisations that need to cover the event are planning to pool space.

"We need to share," said the Jerusalem-based Swiss French television correspondent in Jerusalem. "We don't have so much money."

Renting by the metre home and office space owners are planning to make Chairman

Arafat's arrival the first financial venture of the self-rule era.

"We need the money and this is a one time opportunity. It is okay if we make a little cash," said one landlord who is renting two rooms in his home and his rooftop and hopes to make some \$10,000 to \$12,000 this month.

Print media representatives are expected to mostly stay at the Hisham Palace Hotel, which despite its shabby condition is expected to charge up to a \$150 a night for a room although its usual prices for a room are \$30. The Hisham Palace remains virtually the only hotel in Jericho.

Some media organisations are expecting that Chairman Arafat will also visit Gaza after Jericho, something Jericho Fatah leaders doubt.

In anticipation of a visit by Arafat to the strip some TV networks are already looking for a "set up" in Gaza.

Most people in Jericho are expecting that "there may be more journalists in Jericho than Palestinians to welcome the PLO chairman. Israel, residents say, is expected to close off the Jericho enclave to prevent West Bank Palestinians from flocking to Jericho to welcome Chairman Arafat.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Israelis abroad warned of possible attacks

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli offices abroad were urged to take security precautions for fear they could come under attack by militants, Israel Television reported Sunday. The warning came several days after Israel's deadly raid Thursday on a base used by Hizbollah, in which as many as 50 people died and 200 were wounded. The television said Israeli institutions abroad "were called to be cautious for fear that Islamic militants may try to carry out terror attacks." The brief report gave no other details. The foreign ministry declined comment. But a government official speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed some measures were being taken out of concern that "there is going to be retaliation" for the air strike, and last month's kidnapping by Israel of Islamic leader Mustafa Dirani from Lebanon. Israeli diplomats abroad have been targeted in the past for attack in retribution for military strikes against Arabs. In March 1992 a truck laden with explosives blew up outside Israel's embassy in Buenos Aires, killing 28 people. The attack was a month after Israel assassinated a Hizbollah leader, Abbas Musawi, in a helicopter attack in southern Lebanon. The embassy bombing was later Islamic Jihad, another pro-Iranian group.

Rabin says abducted Islamic leader talking

Haifa, Israel (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said on Sunday Islamic leader Mustafa Dirani, abducted by Israeli commandos in Lebanon two weeks ago, was talking to interrogators. "Dirani is talking but I cannot tell you what he is saying," Mr. Rabin told reporters at Haifa University, where the prime minister received an honorary doctorate. Israel has said it hopes to glean information about Ron Arad, an Israeli airman who was held at one point by Sheikh Dirani's Faithful resistance group after being shot down over Lebanon in 1986. "There is now additional information about Ron Arad's past and I hope that perhaps there will be some about the future. At this stage, one must be cautious and not say too much," Mr. Rabin said. Israel says Arad is being held by pro-Iranians in Lebanon or even in Tehran, a claim which Iran has denied. Pro-Iranian sources say Arad was handed over to Syrian forces in Lebanon. Last week, an Israeli general was quoted as describing Sheikh Dirani as a "pretty tough nut" to crack.

Egypt releases lawyers who had planned march

CAIRO (R) — Nine Egyptian lawyers arrested on suspicion of leading hundreds of colleagues in a protest march last month that was crushed by security forces were released on Sunday, security sources said. Six other ordinary citizens also were released after spending more than two weeks in police custody on the same charges. Police armed with teargas, batons and rubber bullets crushed an attempt in May by hundreds of lawyers to march on the presidency to demand an investigation into the death of an Islamist lawyer who died in police custody. Several lawyers and passersby were injured.

UAE rules out 2 wives under same roof

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) supreme court has sided with women whose polygamous husbands keep more than one wife in the same house, newspapers reported Sunday. "A wife has the right not to obey her husband's selection of a house for her unless it is suitable and safe and no other persons live in it, especially a second wife because this is harmful for her," the court said, issuing a new law. "If there is another wife in the house, the first one has the right to leave it and not to respond to her husband's order to stay until he prepares another legal and independent accommodation for her."

Malian leader in Algiers for Tuareg talks

TUNIS (R) — Mali's President Alpha Omar Konare arrived in Algiers on Sunday for talks expected to focus on continuing unrest among Tuaregs despite a peace pact. Mr. Konare, who was met by President Liamine Zouerate upon his arrival at Algiers airport, said they would discuss "all matters related to the prosperity of their peoples and the peoples of the (Saharan) area," the official AFP agency news agency said. Mali and rebel Tuareg forces reached agreement in May after lengthy talks in Algeria on integrating police and army to salvage a peace pact signed two years ago but never fully implemented. Algeria, alarmed by the growing insecurity in its Saharan border in the south where thousands of Tuareg refugees live, has worked to resolve the problem. Mr. Konare warned late in May that northern Mali could soon be embroiled in civil war. The fair-skinned Tuaregs launched uprisings in Mali and neighbouring Niger in 1990, saying they were oppressed by the black-dominated governments of both countries. Four people were killed last May 31 and 17 others were injured in a Tuareg attack on the Malian town of Fafa near the Niger border. The main rebel movements have said they are sticking by the truce and the pact agreed in April 1992, but it is unclear if the rank and file of the organisations are observing it.

Qadhafi's wife meets British mother

TUNIS (R) — Libya's first lady Aicha Muammar Qadhafi met the mother of a British policewoman who was shot dead outside Tripoli's London embassy and thanked her for coming to Libya, the official news agency JANA said on Sunday. The agency, monitored in Tunis, said that the wife of Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi had told Queenie Fletcher on Saturday that she shared her sorrow because she too had lost a daughter. Ms. Fletcher's policewoman daughter Yvonne was on duty outside Libya's legation on April 17, 1984, when she was killed by a burst of gunfire during a demonstration by Libyan students. The shots appeared to come from an embassy window. Ms. Fletcher met Colonel Qadhafi on Friday and was reported as saying that she hoped her daughter's death would not keep the two families apart. "I would wish to say I do not want the death of my daughter to be used to punish the Arab Libyan people through imposed sanctions," JANA quoted her on Saturday as saying. Before Ms. Fletcher left Libya, Aicha Qadhafi handed her an open invitation to pay a further visit. JANA said. The United Nations Security Council imposed limited sanctions on Libya after Tripoli failed to surrender to trial in U.S. or British courts two men suspected of involvement in the bombing of a Pan Am airliner.

Gaza freedoms rub Islamic activists the wrong way

By Neil Macfarquhar
The Associated Press

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip — Gazans are reclaiming the night, once lost to the Israeli army's hated 8 p.m. curfew.

Giddy with post-occupation joy, couples sometimes dance in the streets. Wedding parties have been sighted after dark. At the restaurant shacks mushrooming on the beach, parking is impossible well past midnight.

But this revival of Palestinian social life is also arousing Islamic activists who seek both a significant role in local government and continued influence over public morality.

In almost seven years of protests against Israeli occupation, Palestinian avoided public displays of happiness to show respect for those killed and injured in clashes with soldiers.

Such sobriety meshed almost perfectly with the moral codes demanded by Islamists, which

ban alcohol and dancing and forbid women from wearing revealing clothes, especially bathing suits.

Anyone who dared challenge the rules during occupation risked swift punishment from masked members of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas).

Now Hamas leaders are warning those days are not over.

"Anybody who asks to sell or buy a beer, he will be punished," declared Hassan Deeb, a religious authority and Hamas official. "According to the law, they should be whipped."

Mr. Deeb ticked off a long list of transgressions he has seen since the 27-year Israeli occupation ended last week, including men and women dancing outside and women wearing short skirts, baring their heads or walking with too provocative a gait.

"It's not good behaviour," he said. "During the uprising,

people were afraid. After the agreement, they think they can do what they want and the law will protect them. They are wrong. We are still powerful."

Mr. Deeb even suggested bringing back the curfew, although he would move it back to 11 p.m.

"A limited curfew is a good thing, when the night is open, people can steal, commit all kinds of sins," Mr. Deeb said.

But the more moderate Palestinians putting together a government suggest the strict religious codes go too far.

"We can't throw people in jail for drinking a beer," said Freih Abu Meidein, a member of the 24-member council that is functioning as a cabinet until Palestinian self-rule is complete.

Yasser Arafat, head of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), which is overseeing autonomy, has announced that laws in place before the 1967 Mideast war and Israel's occupation are

back in force. And lawyers say the laws' only Islamic content involves family matters such as divorce and inheritance.

Gaza leaders warn they will no longer tolerate the lawlessness that allowed Hamas to rule the streets during the occupation.

"They send someone with a sock over his head. Two eyeholes, and Hamas written across his forehead," said Dr. Riad Zouanoun, another member of the council. "If one came to my shop and said, 'close,' I could not refuse because he would stab me."

"Before, three men like that could close the whole city. Now we have police, court, laws," Dr. Zouanoun said.

Hamas' social crusade is part of its search for a role in the blossoming autonomy. There are signs that Hamas leaders are willing to barter an end to their continued attacks on Israel and clashes with PLO police in exchange for a greater say in local government.

Leaders on both sides acknowledge tentative, inconclusive negotiations on the extent of religious influence on everything from social laws to education.

"In the near future I think Hamas must organise itself as a political party or opposition against the authority," said Majdi Akeel, a lecturer at Islamic University.

The rumblings of change are most in evidence along the death, where people sit and stare for hours at the twinkling lights of fishing boats, which only recently were granted permission to work at night.

Jamal Issa manages the Abu Awdah rest stop, one of the spartan little eateries popping up along the shore. Mr. Issa said he knew Hamas' grip on Gaza-by-night was slipping when customers not only showed up at 2 a.m. but also started asking for beer instead of coffee.

"I've even had a few women here in shorts on the beach,"

he said. With a certain degree of bravado, Mr. Issa said if the Hamas tried to interfere with his business, he would summon 100 men with weapons. But Hamas' hold is still evident: It takes 90 minutes of conversation before Mr. Issa will concede he has whiskey on hand for known customers who ask discreetly. And he has no immediate plans to offer beer.

Several women who spoke to a reporter said they thought they might be able this summer to force a reversal of the seven-year-old ban on women swimming but that it would have to be a collective effort because anyone venturing out alone could be punished.

"Lots of women want to go swimming, but it's still conservative," said Majda Thabit, 28. "We are afraid of Hamas."

Added her friend, Lamis, who said she was 25 but did not want to give her last name, "Gaza is not Miami beach."

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:00	Envoy Special
18:30	News in French
18:45	Grands Galops
19:00	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Step by Step
21:10	Moon Over Miami
22:00	News in English
22:30	The Cape Rebel
23:10	The Second Half
PRAYER TIMES	
6:51	Fajr
8:25	(Sunrise) Duha
12:34	Dhuhr
16:18	'Asr
19:43	Maghreb
21:17	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swetish, Tel. 810740	
Agencies of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622366	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Assyrian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Epiphanius Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 625226	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328	
German-speaking Evangelical Church Tel. 684192	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 659322	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Temperatures will drop gradually becoming moderate with winds westerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp.	19/30
Amman	22/36
Aqaba	15/32
Dead Sea	21/35
Jordan Valley	21/35
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 33, Aqaba 29, Hailat 30, Zarqa 30, Amman 15 per cent, Aqaba 15 per cent.	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:	
Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh	736011
Dr. Kaddoum Adour	668873
Dr. Adnan Zaghloul	898140
Dr. Fakher Belhadi	663413
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fardous pharmacy	778336
Al Asema pharmacy	637055
Nairook pharmacy	623672
Al Salema pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shujaat pharmacy	637660
Nairook pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632

IRBID:	
Dr. Akram Momani	(—)
Alqods pharmacy	(—)

ZARQA:	
Dr. Hussien Hajj	984344
Khalaf pharmacy	985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891225
First Aid	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	396390
Public Security Department	630371
Hotel Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone Repairs	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100

Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Int'l. Airport	08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn.	642816/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn.	642441/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642362
Malhas, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shmeisani	864117/4
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Muasher Hospital	667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali	866127/7
Al-Badi, Abdali	664166
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	778111/26
Army, Marka	891611/5
Queen Alia Hospital	686100
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital	(09)900560

Ton Sina Hospital	(09)986732
Al Helwa Modern Hospital	(09)909090
QRBED:	
Princess Basma Hospital	(02)275555
Great Catholic Hospital	(02)272275
Ibn Al Nafies Hospital	(02)267100
AQABA:	
Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

84-10	Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
96-30	Damascus (RJ)
96-38	Dhahran (RJ)
10-15	Aqaba (RJ)
10-15	Abu Dhabi, Al 'Ain (RJ)
10-35	Muscat, Dubai (RJ)
10-58	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
17-35	London (RJ)



ECONOMIC TALKS: The Economic Consultative Council meets at the Prime Ministry on Monday chaired by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali (see story on page one) (Petra photo)

Hotel reclassification should be seen as incentives to upgrade services — Adwan

By Natasha Duthari
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The reclassification of some hotels in Aqaba should be seen as an incentive for improving hotel services rather than a punishment of hotel proprietors, according to Minister of Tourism and Antiquities Mohammad Adwan.

During a press conference at the Ministry of Tourism Monday, Dr. Adwan reiterated his commitment for improving the Kingdom's tourism industry and making it Jordan's main source of hard currency.

Dr. Adwan told reporters that his decision on Sunday to reclassify five hotels in Aqaba was "not at all protecting the tourism industry's credibility saying that 'tourists have to get their money's worth'."

rating system.

Meanwhile, both the newly established Gulf Hotel and the beachfront Aqua Marina Hotel retained their previous ratings.

Dr. Adwan said that although the measure of reclassification had been decided upon months ago, he was careful not to implement it until the busy tourism season in Jordan's port city had ended.

"I did not want to inflict any financial losses on hotel owners during that active period," Dr. Adwan said.

Despite the growing criticism received as a result of the minister's bold decision, Dr. Adwan stressed the need for the measure, adding that it was taken only after the hotel proprietors neglected his continuous requests that they improve their services and decrease their "outrageous" prices.

Dr. Adwan emphasized the importance of having a master plan for developing tourism in the country and touched upon the prospects for a boom in tourism in the area with peace looming in the horizon between Arabs and Israelis.

He said the ministry is active in providing investors with the "proper" infrastruc-



Minister of Tourism Mohammad Adwan Monday talks to reporters about the ministry's decision to reclassify some Aqaba hotels (Petra photo)

ture, economic assistance and facilities for tourism-related projects.

A Jordanian-Palestinian committee was formed last month to discuss the establishment of joint ventures and projects to promote tourism in the area.

According to the minister, the committee was formed upon the request of Elias Freij, the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Minister of Tourism in Gaza and Jericho.

Mr. Freij met with his Jordanian counterpart to

seek his assistance and advice in the area of tourism.

"Peace or no peace, Jordan has to develop its tourism industry," said Dr. Adwan, adding that Jordan was one of the richest countries worldwide in terms of its touristic attractions and its antiquities.

Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Monday attends a ceremony in remembrance of the late Queen Zein Al Sharaf, the Queen Mother, who passed away on April 26. Organized at Al Hussein Youth City by the General Federation of Jordanian Women (GFJW), the ceremony included eulogies by GFJW President Hafa Abu Ghazaleh, former Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and former Information Minister Salah Abu Zaid who recounted the sacrifices and the numerous services which the late Queen offered to the Jordanian people, particularly women and orphaned children, and the needy.



HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

King congratulates Sweden, Chad

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Monday sent a cable to King Carl Gustaf of Sweden, congratulating him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. King Hussein wished the Swedish monarch good health and happiness and the Swedish people further progress and prosperity. King Hussein also sent a similar cable to Chad President Idriss Deby, congratulating him on his country's national day.

Supply Committee on the Kingdom's food supply policies

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chile's ambassador to Jordan, Nelson Hadad Heresi, this week ends a four-year tour of duty in the Kingdom and leaves for his new post as his country's ambassador to Egypt. In a statement to the Jordan Times, Dr. Heresi said that the Chilean embassy in Amman will continue to strengthen bilateral ties in all fields, including trade and tourism. Chile values the important role Jordan is playing as a key partner in the Middle East peace process under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and appreciates the Kingdom's endeavours to enhance democracy and respect of human rights, said the outgoing ambassador. Dr. Heresi reiterated his country's strong support for a lasting peace in the region based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Recalling a visit to Jordan by Chilean businessmen last November to discuss prospects for trade and joint ventures, the ambassador said that the two countries are currently implementing a 1993-1995 cultural and technical programme and exploring ways of boosting their economic ties.

Parliament houses schedule meetings

AMMAN (Petra) — The Upper House of Parliament (Senate) will meet this morning to discuss decisions by its Judicial Committee on the amended civil courts draft law of 1994, an amendment to the Municipalities Law and the 1982 Landlords and Tenants Temporary Law. The Lower House will meet Wednesday to discuss a memorandum by the Senate speaker which referred the 1994 amended Jordanian investments corporation draft law back to the House. It will also discuss decisions by the House

Chilean envoy ends tour of duty

AMMAN (J.T.) — Chile's ambassador to Jordan, Nelson Hadad Heresi, this week ends a four-year tour of duty in the Kingdom and leaves for his new post as his country's ambassador to Egypt. In a statement to the Jordan Times, Dr. Heresi said that the Chilean embassy in Amman will continue to strengthen bilateral ties in all fields, including trade and tourism. Chile values the important role Jordan is playing as a key partner in the Middle East peace process under the wise leadership of His Majesty King Hussein and appreciates the Kingdom's endeavours to enhance democracy and respect of human rights, said the outgoing ambassador. Dr. Heresi reiterated his country's strong support for a lasting peace in the region based on U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338. Recalling a visit to Jordan by Chilean businessmen last November to discuss prospects for trade and joint ventures, the ambassador said that the two countries are currently implementing a 1993-1995 cultural and technical programme and exploring ways of boosting their economic ties.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

FLIGHT FOR LIFE ACTIVITIES

- ★ Lecture: "Wings Over Jordan," by Judy Leden of the microflight team, on Thursday at the British Council at 6:00 p.m.
- ★ Fund-raising Dinner: for the Cancer Research Campaign, sponsored by Royal Jordanian at the Inter-Continental Hotel, Thursday at 8:30 p.m., tickets JD 20.
- ★ Open Day Flying: with the microflight team of world champions and the Royal Jordanian Gliding Club, on Friday from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. Tickets JD 5.
- ★ Oud Recital: by Munir Basbir at the Royal Cultural Centre, Saturday at 8:00 p.m. Tickets JD 5.
- ★ Proceeds will go to support the work of the Cancer Research Campaign. For information call Royal Jordanian Gliding Club 891401 (253) or Friends of Archaeology 696682.

PANEL DISCUSSION

- ★ Panel discussion in Arabic entitled "The Dimensions of the Palestinian-Israeli Economic Accord and Its Impact on the Region" with the participation of Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar, former ESCWA secretary general, Dr. Bassem Al Saket, and Dr. Mohammad Saqr at the Jerusalem International Hotel at 4:00 p.m.

TVS EUROPE PROGRAMME

- ★ Variety television programme in French (broadcast by TV5 Europe station) entitled "Bouillon De Culture" at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

FILM

- ★ Chinese film entitled "Love By Chance" at

Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

NEWS HOUR

- ★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 5:00 p.m.

NOVEL RECITAL

- ★ Novel recital (in Arabic) by novelist Basma Nsour at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:30 p.m. (Tel. 695291).

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Painting exhibition by Jordanian artist Abdul Ra'uf Sham'oun at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Lweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Ameri entitled "Body" at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Fatima El-Helu at Goethe-Institut.
- ★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Huda Qassem at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Art exhibition of Chinese paintings at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman.
- ★ Photography exhibit entitled "Faces of Jordan" at the American Center.
- ★ Exhibition by artist Isam Tantawi at Balqa Art Gallery in Fuheis (Tel. 720677).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Abeer Bawab at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of photographs of "The Living Dead Sea" by Paula Williams-Brown at The Gallery of the Hotel Jordan Inter-Continental.
- ★ Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He, Bonjour Monsieur La Fontaine" at the French Cultural Centre.



TEACHER TRAINING PROJECT: Minister of Planning Zaid Fariz and British Ambassador Peter Hinchcliffe, Monday signed a memorandum of understanding providing JD 1.1 million grant assistance for the In-Service Teacher Training Project which started in December 1992 at the Ministry of Education. According to a British Embassy statement the project's aim is to enhance the contribution of the Ministry of Education's Educational Training Centre to the successful implementation of the educational reforms in Jordan by raising the quality of in-service training for teachers, school principals and auxiliary staff. The project involves British cooperation with the centre, over a three-year period, to enable the central training team and regional supervisors/trainers to acquire, and impart to trainees, the practice of participative learning. The emphasis is on teaching to learning, and to learning in the form of critical thinking, decision-making, and problem solving. The project also offers assistance for the Educational Training Centre to initiate and support a range of professional development activities through pilot projects and focused study visits (Petra photo)

and auxiliary staff. The project involves British cooperation with the centre, over a three-year period, to enable the central training team and regional supervisors/trainers to acquire, and impart to trainees, the practice of participative learning. The emphasis is on teaching to learning, and to learning in the form of critical thinking, decision-making, and problem solving. The project also offers assistance for the Educational Training Centre to initiate and support a range of professional development activities through pilot projects and focused study visits (Petra photo)



WIND POWER: Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) Director General Mohammad Saeed Arafah (second from right) and the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) President Hani Mulki Monday sign an agreement whereby the RSS will offer consultancy

services to the JEA for a second project by the authority to generate electricity through the use of wind power. The German Ministry of Scientific Research will finance 70 per cent of the total costs of the project, with the remaining 30 per cent coming from JEA (Petra photo)

21 teenage girls, 2 adults injured in road accident

By Elias Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

SALT — Twenty-three people, most of them teenage girls from Salt were injured in a road accident Monday; all except 10 of the injured have been treated and discharged from hospital, according to Salt Hospital Director Usama Samawi.

Dr. Samawi told the Jordan Times that 21 girls (students of the Yamameh School), aged 12 to 14, were injured, six of them seriously, when a car careened into them as they gathered next to a grocery store nearby their school in the morning.

The accident, which occurred at Salameh district along a very steep road, resulted in injuries also to the motorist and the grocery store owner who had been standing by the door of his establishment, said Dr. Samawi.

Six of the girls who suffered head wounds and were described in serious condition have been transferred to Jordan University Hospital and the King Hussein Medical Centre for specialised care.

according to Dr. Samawi.

He said 13 of the injured, including the store owner, were discharged after treatment for bruises and light injuries, but three of the girls are still in hospital and could be discharged in two to three days. The driver, Ibrahim Zoubi, who was said to be in fair condition would need at least one week of treatment at the hospital, he added.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas, who visited the scene of the accident and the injured, said that some of the victims sustained head injuries and fractures requiring neurosurgery at Jordan University Hospital and King Hussein Medical Centre.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted the school director as saying that she had repeatedly urged the concerned authorities to do something about the precarious location of the school which is situated near the steep road. But, she said, no precautionary measures were taken to avoid a tragedy.

The health minister said that police are investigating the accident.

Church officials to seek end to U.N. embargo on Iraq

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan will participate in a four-day seminar in Iraq next week designed to draw world attention to the need to lift the U.N. embargo on the Iraqi people, according to the head of Iraq Caritas liaison office in Jordan Reverend Mousa Adeli.

The Jordanian delegation, which leaves for Baghdad today, will be joined there by participants from the Vatican, and church representatives from Europe, North and South America and the Middle East, as well as a team from the Middle East Council of Churches. Rev. Adeli told the Jordan Times.

Starting in Baghdad under the theme: "The church in the service of peace and humanity," the seminar will continue at Mosul in the northern Nine-

wa governorate where the delegates will review the general situation in Iraq resulting from the embargo and tackle urgent problems such as starvation and shortages of basic medicines, according to Rev. Adeli.

He said that the Roman Catholic Church's position with regard to the consequences of the U.N. embargo on Iraq will feature in the discussions in which religious as well as lay people will take part.

"With this meeting we aim to raise our voices high, demanding an end to the unjustified sufferings of the Iraqi people who are facing starvation and to urge world organisations to help bring the four-year sanctions to an end," added Rev. Adeli.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church in Jordan, Bishop Salim Sayagh, is leading the Jordanian delegation to the meeting.

Police search for defrauder

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ghor Al Safi police are searching for a man who on Saturday defrauded a 55-year-old shopkeeper of JD 240, according to the Public Security Department (PSD) reports.

The report said the victim, Hamed Suleiman, was working in his shop when a man entered and asked him whether there was a traditional healer (mujaber) in that area.

Mr. Suleiman told police that the man told him that he had broken his arm and had asked him to feel it, then the suspect left the shop.

The victim said that when the man left, he checked for his wallet and discovered it was missing. He said the wallet contained some personal papers and JD 240.

Mr. Suleiman looked at photographs of possible suspects from police files and was able to point out the suspect who police identified only as T.A.M. Police declined to reveal any further information regarding the suspect.

A PSD official told the Jordan Times that such incidents are common, and it occurs in different parts of the Kingdom.

He said in many cases, defrauders victimise elderly people and use similar schemes.

Arab Wings gets new director

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal

Jordanian (RJ) Chief Executive Officer Mahmoud Balqaz Monday appointed Ramzi Shuweihat as director of the Arab Wings, the Arab World's only executive jet charter company.

Mr. Shuweihat was RJ's vice-president.

Other administrative decisions taken by Mr. Balqaz Monday included appointing Ghaleb Madadha as director of RJ in Spain; Hassan Al Nabulsi, director of the

national carrier's offices in Saudi Arabia; Usama Al Faraj, director of Jordan's offices; Waleed Al Zeitawi will head the Dhahran office in Saudi Arabia; Fathi Al Hmoud, director of the office in Tunisia; Nabil Al Batineh, director of offices in Cyprus; Mohammad Assi, the Netherlands area manager; Jamal Al Gharibeh, area manager in Turkey; Furkan Asfour, executive officer of the centre's agencies and Interline; Ziad Al Zeitawi, executive officer of the cen-

tre's marketing; Munir Al Qassem, area manager in Morocco; Marwan Al Saudi, area manager in Abu Dhabi; Samir Al Rishqi, Amman area manager; Saleem Odeh, area manager in France; Hussein Hammoudeh, area manager in Qatar; Terad Al Zu'bi, area manager in Libya; Munther Bani Hani, area manager in Calcutta, India; Mustafa Al Bibi, area manager in Bahrain and Wa'el Zakaria, director of the Riyadh office.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

Chairman of the Board of Directors:

MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Director General:

MOHAMMAD AMAD

Editor-in-Chief:

GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:

Jordan Press Foundation,

University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephones: 667171/6, 670141-4

Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO

Facsimile: 696183

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the

Jordan Times advertising department.

Fit for walk

SIDEWALKS are normally made for walking. In Jordanian cities and towns sidewalks are made for cars to park. When sidewalks are not used for car parking, they cannot, for the most part, be used by pedestrians because they are obstructed by trees, construction material or potholes. People who must walk or enjoy taking a walk cannot find a place to do so and end up walking on the streets. No wonder pedestrian-related road accidents are on the rise.

What can be done to remedy this alarming situation is plenty, provided there is a will to tackle this problem seriously and effectively. To begin with, city municipalities together with the traffic department can pool their resources to remove existing obstacles on sidewalks, be they cement, iron bars or sand. No construction licences should be issued without assurances that sidewalks are kept free from hindrances. The experience of the more advanced world can surely be put to use in this endeavour. When builders do not comply with city ordinances on this subject, they must be prosecuted, fined or even imprisoned in view of the hazards they pose to citizens. Trees beautifying our streets and roads need to be trimmed once in a while so that their branches do not poke the eyes of unsuspecting pedestrians. This much does not require great ingenuity provided there is a will to deal with. And what could make the sidewalks, safer is the enactment of legislations empowering pedestrians with the right to sue municipalities for any damage sustained because of unsafe sidewalks. Maybe then our authorities would start to take the problem more seriously.

The courts of the land must also be prepared to take up complaints submitted by people who sustain one kind of damage or another while walking our sidewalks. Admittedly we have yet to develop a legal culture that would encourage the collection of stiff damages caused by unsafe road and sidewalk conditions. As long as the loss of life and the incurring of bodily harm continue to be taken lightly by our judiciary, there can be no hope of convincing our local authorities and construction workers to take more seriously their obligations to keep our sidewalks safe and fit for human use.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS premature to judge the tripartite talks involving Jordanian, Israeli and American officials in Washington and speculate about the implementation of the Jordanian-Israeli common agenda signed last September, said Al Rai daily Monday. Jordan has shown all good intentions for giving an impetus to the peace process and has sincerely worked towards the establishment of a just peace, acceptable to the future generations, said the paper. But, it said, the continued presence of U.S. naval forces in the Gulf of Aqaba and Israel's obstinate stand vis-a-vis the implementation of the common agenda have been obstructing the talks. However, with the U.S. decision to end the inspection of ships, Jordan sees no harm in testing anew the Israeli intentions and its readiness to give back occupied Jordanian lands and waters, said the daily. Jordan is also prepared to exert serious efforts to achieve progress along all the Arab-Israeli tracks with the aim of attaining a comprehensive settlement, added the daily. But for that to happen, the paper said, prior coordination among the Arab parties is of paramount importance.

SULTAN AL Hattab, a columnist in Al Rai, said the salary increases for public servants can by no means help them deal with the soaring prices of various commodities. The writer said that the government ought to revise the scale of salaries regularly in order to help its employees keep up with inflation. However, the government's decision to revise the scale each year is a welcome development, and its intention to pay more to the more competent employees is an encouraging move, said the writer. But, he said, it is feared that the system would not work well and confusion could be the result with favours done to those who do not actually deserve a bonus. Therefore, the writer suggested the government be called on to lay down specific criteria for the implementation of government plans to ensure sound reform of the public administration structure.

The View from Fourth Circle

Politics, culture and angels of illusion

By Rami G. Khouri

THE MORE I travel in the Middle East, Europe and North America, the more convinced I become of the importance of culture — specifically, the importance of cultural values and social traditions — as the bases for political systems, whether in our Arab region or elsewhere in the world. This will become increasingly relevant for us in the years to come, as it becomes clear that the extent and depth of the contemporary Arab crisis of governance and nationhood will only be resolved by a resort to powerful assets within our own societies. We will have to find inspiration and sustenance by turning to the root components of our own ancient cultures, because other instant miracle cures will have been seen to be angels of illusion.

This century has clearly documented the vigorous but so far failed Arab quest for four essential elements: 1) rational nationhood that allows people to express their identity and to feel that their human dignity and their government are not in opposition to one another; 2) a natural and sustainable balance between the indigenous, traditional power centres of society, namely the religious establishment, the merchants, the military, and the political elite; 3) political/economic structures that promote confidence, investment, productivity, creativity and trade, thereby improving people's living standards and giving them greater hope for the future of their children; and, 4) a fair, mutually satisfying relationship with foreign, mainly Western, powers, but also with regional non-Arab actors such as Iran, Turkey and Israel.

The Arabs have been seeking answers to these challenges of political stability, sensible governance, urbanism, environment and economy for the past several hundred years — ever since the moment in the 16th or 17th century when Arab/Islamic civilisation was overtaken by a Western civilisation that had become technologically, commercially and intellectually more dynamic.

In time, culture will provide the vital foundation for the answers we seek, because throughout this century we have tried to find the answers in other areas, without success. In the first and second quarters of the century and the early days of "independence," we thought the Arab modern state — born in the minds and drawn on the napkins of European politicians — would lead to a better life. But statehood was not the full answer. Euro-style statehood imposed on an ancient Arab society only resulted in grotesque distortions of power, money and arms in the hands of a few people who ruled the modern state according to the ancient rules of oriental patriarchy.

In the second and third quarters of the century, a dual response to the thin credibility of the state and to the challenge of Western-supported Zionism, many Arabs turned to pan-Arab nationalism as the solution to our problems. But pan-Arabism fell short of its promise because it was never allowed to find expression in the will and sensibilities of the Arab people themselves. It was hijacked and monopolised by the same Arab leaderships that had exercised state power as a personal fief. Arab nationalism was disfigured into empty

slogans of unity by leaders who feared unity because it threatened their self-imposed, non-accountable incumbency, and would force them to share or give up power.

In the early years of the fourth quarter of this century, when the oil boom struck in the second half of the 1970s, many Arabs suddenly became disillusioned with ideology and turned instead to the allure of money and material goods. They thought that "development" and "investment" were the answers the Arabs had long sought. But these, too, proved fickle and retributive gods; they provided luxury and comfort for a small number of Arabs in the 1970s, but poverty, debt and agony for the majority of Arabs in the 1980s.

In the last quarter of this century, abandoned by the cash god, many Arabs sought comfort and salvation in their authentic spirituality and their long-serving and credible god: they turned to Islam as the answer. But Islam has proved less successful as a political force and a system of governance than it has as a system of spirituality and morality; this is because Islam is a religion, and not an ideology or a package of management software, and, like all other religions, it is less effective at running states than it is at providing a moral code for personal and communal behaviour and at answering the big question, of life.

Islamist politics has swept through our region in a dramatic manner in the last 15 years — since the overthrow of the Shah of Iran — but now appears unable to resolve the great contemporary challenges of oriental statehood. Iran, Saudi Arabia and Sudan, the three states in our area that formally operate according to Islamist political doctrines, are not exactly shining models of relaxed governance that others are clamouring to copy. (Other Middle Eastern states based on religion are not doing so well either, notably Lebanon and Israel.)

The experience of Islamists as part of the government system in other Arab states — Jordan, Lebanon and Yemen — has not been particularly impressive. Here in Jordan, the Islamists, who joined Mudar Badran's government in the early 1990s, not only were ordinary in their performance; they also succeeded in generating active, sometimes even populist, opposition to their focus on rather peripheral issues, such as whether girls should wear sports shorts in primary school or whether men should cut women's hair. The Islamists in Jordan found themselves being openly criticised in the press, when only a year before they were treated as politically sacred. So they stayed out of the next government, and retreated to the relative comfort of their role as a loyal opposition. Their vocal rejection of the Arab-Israeli peace process has been totally ignored and ineffective, here and in Palestine. In the 1993 Jordanian elections, they lost much of their power in Parliament.

The evidence is mounting that political Islam has been an effective means to challenge the old Arab political order, but a far less effective governance system that can respond to our

huge and worsening national needs. Having tried the state, pan-Arabism, commercialism and Islam as possible solutions, and found them all wanting in one way or another, the Arab people continue to look to other answers to their national predicament. I believe they will look to culture and tribalism in the short term, for these are the last lines of defence for a society under sustained stress.

Any political changes we adopt will have to be culturally authentic and relevant if they are to succeed. Western-style democracy, pluralism and human rights are now on offer as the latest solution to our needs, and they enjoy the added advantage of being politically correct values in the West, especially in Washington. Here is where the role of culture comes in, for political life must mirror cultural life, and our cultural values are rather different from Western cultural values in key ways:

1) Western society is based on the rights of the individual, while Arab society is based on the rights of the group (family, sect, tribe, religion, etc.).

2) Western society has one law for all people, while Arab society has several different laws for different groups (in Jordan, we simultaneously use civil law, formal Shari'a law, Christian church laws for Christians' civil status issues and traditional tribal law).

3) Western society is based on the equality of all people, while Arab society is based on a series of unspoken but enduring hierarchies that give different rights and obligations to different groups of people (Arab-non Arab, Muslim-non Muslim, man-woman and old-young among others).

4) Western society is egalitarian and horizontal in terms of people's rights and duties, and power flows from the bottom to the top, while Arab society is patriarchal and vertical and power flows from the top to the bottom.

5) Western society separates church and state and explicitly promotes "civil society" as an important space between the individual and the state, while in Arab society the separation of religion and society is less clear, and the traditional role of civil society structures is less obvious. The West worships secularism, while Arab society generally fears it.

These and other basic differences mean that we cannot blindly copy Western democratic systems. Rather, we have to discover how our cultural values and social traditional correspond to the key principles of Western democracy: pluralism, participation and accountability. I would suggest that these three principles are deeply entrenched in Arab/Islamic culture, but they are expressed in a different manner than in Western political systems.

Finding this synthesis between Arab and Western political and social culture should be an urgent mission for like-minded Arabs and Westerners who wish to replace confrontation and fear with a shared morality of human dignity as the common heritage of our civilisations and the operative principles of our systems of national governance.



M. KAHIL

Croats, Muslims grope towards normality on former war fronts

By Helen Despic-Popovic
Agence France Presse

ZEPCE, Bosnia — A short time ago Iko, a Croat, and Selim, a Muslim, were enemies who squinted at each other down the barrels of guns from trenches just 50 metres apart.

Now they lounge in the sun on the Prevlia crest which dominates this small town, sharing a punnet of cherries with six other soldiers who have been demobilised and are free to return to their "ethnically purified" villages in the wake of a three-month-old agreement to form a Muslim-Croatian federation.

Prevlia, formerly a Croatian pocket, now boasts one of the United Nations observation posts controlled by peacekeepers.

Since a ceasefire took effect before the federation agreement, the trenches have become part of a buffer zone where peacekeepers from the British U.N. battalion make daily patrols on foot.

"Nothing to report," says Iko, Selim and the other demobilised troops who are charged with checking that no incidents occur. "It's easy to talk among soldiers."

In the evening Iko goes back to his village of Orasovica, which has only one Muslim-owned house, empty for the past year. He says he cannot imagine his neighbour returning "while people still

have blood on their hands."

Major Richard Kemp of the British battalion meets daily with local commanders from both sides to brief them on developments.

"They seem to get on better and better with each other," he commented. "I'd almost say there's a certain amount of cooperation."

"Three months after Washington agreements, which laid the foundation for the new federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the only sort of contact civilians from the former opposing sides are allowed to have are family visits lasting a maximum of one week."

Captain Drago Dragicevic, of the Bosnian-Croat Forces (HVO) 11th brigade, who until last autumn led joint operations with Bosnian-Serb troops against the Muslims, does not mince words.

Asked what he thinks about the future of the Croat-Muslim federation, he said: "I'm a soldier, I follow orders. Politics are not my business."

His Bosnian opposite number, Capt. Jusuf Musirbegovic, described himself as "more optimistic than sceptical" but he "would like to see civilian life progress as

easily as military matters."

Three months after the Washington agreements, which laid the foundation for the new federation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the only sort of contact civilians from the former opposing sides are allowed to have are family visits lasting a maximum of one week.

On both sides, scores of refugees wait in hope of returning to homes that were torched or are now occupied by other people.

U.N. peacekeepers are expecting an eventual reconciliation and British members of the Royal Anglian Regiment busy themselves cleaning up a school in the nearby village of Novi Seher, devastated when Serb forces passed through, and which is due to serve as a joint Croatian-Muslim school.

At a crossing point between Zepce and the neighbouring Muslim town of

Maglaj, where a British armoured vehicle is parked, Croat and Muslim police officers check the rare travellers.

A Muslim family returning from Tuzla — their first trip away from the two years the town was besieged — elicit no interest from the police who glance briefly at their luggage.

At Maglaj, the deputy commander of the Bosnian battalion, Ismet Bradavic, compared the federation to a marriage of convenience, a dissuasive weapon against the common enemy, the Serbs, whose front position stand less than 500 metres away from his town.

Cooperation so far has been limited to a few deliveries of arms. "The Croats are still a long way from lending us tanks, let alone carrying out joint operations," he said.

The front remains active. For the past month, the mainly-Muslim Bosnian Army troops from the nearby town of Tesanj, 10 kilometres west of Maglaj, have been pushing west in the direction of Serb positions at Teslic.

Capt. Charles Mayo, commander of the U.N. base at Maglaj, said he could not confirm the report of arms deliveries. "We don't search all vehicles," he said, adding, "anything that's not contested by one side or the other isn't a problem."

Month of war stirs Arab disarray

By William Maclean
Reuter

ADEN — Residents of Aden shake their heads in disgust whenever they hear on the radio that their northern Yemeni opponents have professed a desire for peace.

They say the thunderous shelling that periodically shakes the approaches to their city, capital of a new self-proclaimed southern state, is a far better indication of northern intentions.

A month into Yemen's civil war, hard-pressed southerners are waiting for international outrage to mount at the assault on Aden by conservative northerners vowing to strangle at birth the secular breakaway state announced on May 21.

They want their friends in the Arab World, notably Egypt and Gulf Arab states, to pile pressure on Sanaa to all off its attack and settle political differences around a table.

They have appealed for international recognition of their "Democratic Republic of Yemen," so far without success, but their envoys are received warmly in the Gulf.

They say they have already raked delivery of fresh arms supplies from foreign sympathisers.

But they face politically astute opponents who have loudly expressed a desire for peace while slyly silent on the havoc and bloodshed their troops' advance has wrought on regions of the poorer and less populous South.

It is a strategy every southerner understands. "The northerners are attacking without saying they are attacking. They don't want to be seen as the bad guys," said Nasser, an office clerk.

Sanaa has said it is ready to implement a resolution passed by the U.N. Security Council last Wednesday but has stopped short of saying whether it would accept a ceasefire for talk to the southern leaders it condemns as rebels.

The South's better trained forces have steadily lost ground around Aden to troops loyal to the northern President Ali Abdullah Saleh, largely because they were caught by surprise at the war's outset and because they are far outnumbered.

"In a fairly low-tech war like this, numbers count," said a Gulf-based military expert. "It's all about getting the men into the field and maintaining a bare minimum of supply."

"There are enough weapons, but not enough men to work them," goes a commonly-heard complaint.

Mr. Saleh has vowed to preserve the union he created with former Marxist South Yemen in 1990 in a move widely seen with hindsight as a marriage of economic convenience for the South.

The southern political elite, which compromised most to make unity work, says southerners are better off as a separate state that might eventually forge vague confederal links to Sanaa.

They accuse Mr. Saleh of being a classic reactionary despot who rules his own people by terror and plans to colonise the South through manipulation of Muslim militant and tribal groupings.

Reports that Sanaa has received help from Iraq Sudan and Muslim militant veterans of the Afghan war against Soviet occupation have only reinforced southerners' worst fears.

They say the Arab leader whose style mostly closely matches Mr. Saleh's uncompromising temperament is Iraqi President Saddam Hussein. They say Mr. Saleh's thrust south was accompanied by the same rhetorical flourishes as Baghdad's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Mr. Saleh says most southerners want to preserve the union and would back him if only a handful of power-hungry southern leaders were forced to flee or were arrested or killed.

Analysts say several elements are working in the South's favour, despite its apparently poor military prognosis.

Aden residents note that their breakaway government is a coalition of the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled Marxist South Yemen, and some of its most vociferous former opponents. They say this alliance shores up the political cohesion of Aden's defence.

Another plus is the private sympathy for the South among Gulf rulers anxious to prevent a revival of Iraqi influence in the region barely three years after the 1991 Gulf war.

"If you ask how far Gulf states would go to block pro-Iraqi forces in the area, the short answer is 'quite a long way,'" said a Western source familiar with key players in the war.

"Much depends on how robustly the South can hold out against northern pressure," the source said.

Sanaa declares ceasefire

(Continued from page 1)

Yemen," he said, adding that Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states should "realise it is in their interest ... at least to be neutral."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali was dispatching an envoy, Algerian diplomat Lakhdar Brahimi, to Sanaa this week to look into ways of solving the month-old conflict. Sanaa had been expected to officially accept the U.N. ceasefire call before Mr. Brahimi's arrival.

The northern leadership has become more amenable to negotiations to end the fighting since initial expectations of a lightning victory got bogged down outside Aden.

The ceasefire announcement, quickly hailed by Dr. Abdul Meguid as a "positive first step," came after a day of intense fighting on two main fronts near Aden and shelling of the city itself, which continued after the announcement.

Shells landed every two or three minutes in the Khormak-sar district near Aden airport, which has been a prime target for northerners trying to ground southern warplanes.

At least eight were confirmed dead in the shelling and ambulances were criss-crossing the city, while six others died as firefighters tried to save the city's main oil refinery after it was bombed and set ablaze.

A southern military spokesman said the city's anti-aircraft defenses shot down two attacking northern warplanes, while 65 northern soldiers had been killed and 200 wounded in the past three days of fighting in oil-rich Shabwa province.

Witnesses in Aden reported southern positions loosing off heavy anti-aircraft fire on Monday afternoon. They said one incoming missile fell into the sea near the city's port.

Black smoke drifted from Aden's refinery, hit twice on Sunday by what the south said

were northern air raids. New checkpoints sprang up in Aden's streets and traffic was thin.

Many of the 350,000 residents queued for bread, water and petrol for the first time since the civil war started on May 4.

Armed civilians and soldiers patrolled streets in northern suburbs. The atmosphere was tense but there was little panic.

The military situation on Monday in villages north of Aden was not clear although the fighting had caused many casualties.

Before the ceasefire statement, the International Committee of the Red Cross was trying to organise an evacuation of foreigners to Djibouti.

As shells landed near ships, 100 Somali refugees gathered at Aden port trying to leave, uncertain whether Djibouti would accept them and worried about returning to their own land of strife.

Northern leaders said Sunday they had put their acceptance of the ceasefire "on hold" because of perceived Saudi threats to intervene in the conflict.

Yemen was formed when the north and south merged into a single state in May 1990. The union was popular but beset by cultural and ideological differences and a power struggle between President Saleh, a northern, and Mr. Beidh.

After months of skirmishing, civil war broke out on May 4, shattering the four-year-old merger of the country, on the southwestern tip of the Arabian Peninsula.

Saudi Arabia was unhappy with a unified, democratic Yemen, which it apparently saw as a threat to its own autocratic rule and traditional dominance of the region. The Saudis attempted to undermine Yemen by arming Yemeni tribes and bankrolling politicians in recent years.

Jordan, Israel start talks

(Continued from page 1)

projects in the Jordan Valley. Israeli-Jordanian peace efforts have largely been put on the back burner as Israel has engaged in intense negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians.

However, with Palestinian self-rule in Jericho and the Gaza Strip being implemented, the opportunity now exists to move forward on the Jordanian track once again, diplomats said.

One of the trickiest problems facing the Israelis and Jordanians is the question of control over water, particularly the source of the Jordan and Yarmuk rivers.

Jordan said Saturday it had indications Israel was ready to discuss border demarcation of these disputes with Amman. "The Israeli side has shown readiness to discuss that issue

within the framework of a bilateral working group dealing with land, borders and security," Information Minister Jawad Al Anani told reporters.

The Kingdom has been pressing Israel for months to accept the idea of fixing frontiers with Jordan and setting up a joint commission on border demarcation and delineation in line with maps of British-mandated Palestine.

But Israeli officials said they were adamantly opposed to border demarcation.

Citing the start of Palestinian self-rule, Dr. Anani said Amman was ready to take a more assertive line in its talks with Israel to prevent its role from being "marginalised."

Dr. Anani announced that the Washington talks would discuss prospects of economic cooperation and future studies and projects to develop the Jordan Valley.

Peres discloses pledge

(Continued from page 1)

significance of Jerusalem for the monotheistic beliefs and will continue to respect the unique value of the city for Jews, Christians and Muslims," Mr. Peres said.

The official said the missive was intended to remain secret but after Mr. Arafat and other Palestinians alluded to written pledges on Jerusalem the decision was taken to release the contents.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last month strenuously denied such a letter existed when Mr. Arafat declared he had received a written undertaking on Jerusalem.

"There is no secret agreement. There is no document which has not been published. Everything has been made public," Mr. Rabin told parliament on May 12.

The right-wing opposition charged he was lying during a bitter debate.

On May 30, Mr. Rabin appeared to climb down, tell a parliamentary committee. According to my information, Arafat has received only a piece of a speech by Peres on the freedom of religion and access to Muslim holy places in

Jerusalem. Amid growing controversy over Jerusalem, Faisal Hussein, the PLO leader on the West Bank, confirmed the existence of secret Israeli undertakings.

Mr. Hussein said: "There is a letter from Israel and the question of Jerusalem and the PLO institutions in the city and on other subjects. I cannot say any more."

A close aide to Mr. Peres told AFP: "He has committed two errors. First he denied this letter existed when it does exist and he should have published it when it was sent."

"At that time no one would have paid it any attention. Now it will pour oil on the flames and the right will use the story against us."

Right-wingers are preparing a major campaign to keep Mr. Arafat out of Jerusalem and intend to throw a human cor-don around the city.

The PLO leader was expected to visit the autonomous enclave of Jericho in the middle of this month. However, at the weekend he suggested further delays unless donor countries came up with money for autonomy.

Intifada ends in autonomy

(Continued from page 1)

States know the area where they died and we are ready to help them in the search," Freth Abu Middain said.

Zakaria Baume, Zvi Feldman and Yehuda Katz died during the battle of Sultan Yaakub in the Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon.

"Yasser Arafat gave orders to find them a long time ago, but it's difficult. The bodies were buried during the fighting," said Mr. Middain, a lawyer.

The Israeli military administration has settled the \$13 million electricity debts which Palestinians have run up on the Gaza Strip, a spokesman for the electricity company said.

With the slate wiped clean, the Palestinians have told the Israelis they intend to find alternative energy sources.

The authority plans to use a Canadian ship anchored off Gaza to supply the Strip. The vessel uses gas turbines to generate 120 megawatts.

The new Palestinian authority "will very shortly" start issuing identity cards in Gaza and Jericho, a PLO leader said.

"They will be given first to members of the police force and to Palestinians who have returned home recently," said Zakaria Al Agha, who will be housing "minister" in the authority.

The rest of the population would get the cards to replace Israeli military administration documents within three months.



Azeri soldiers prepare for an attack on their Armenian forces in December when the war over Nagorno Karabakh was in its peak (AFP photo)

Azeris resigned to losing Karabakh

By Lawrence Sheets
Reuters

BAKU — The streets are bustling, the cafes and restaurants are busy and the stores are filled with goods, but, make no mistake, Baku is the capital of a country on the verge of a comprehensive military defeat.

For the last year the Azeri army has been dealt one defeat after another in its six-year war over the disputed enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh, a chunk of land it technically controls but which is populated mostly by ethnic Armenians.

Armenian forces have broken out of the enclave to swallow up huge tracts of land in Azerbaijan proper. Nearly one million Azeri refugees — one in seven of the country's population — have been created.

One might have thought the country would be in the grips of a wave of nationalist sentiment given the magnitude of such problems. But the mood is one of apathy and a sombre acceptance that the enclave may have been lost forever.

During the first years of the war thousands of angry demonstrators would gather on the city's main square in heady shows of patriotism, punching the air with their fists

in cries of "Karabakh is ours." Now the only reminder that the conflict goes on is the endless parade of government war propaganda directed against Armenia in the official press.

In Armenia, spiritual patron of the Karabakh Armenians who have driven the Azeris out of the mountainous territory, a fierce anti-Azerbaijani campaign is waged daily in the press.

But the similarities end there. In Yerevan, the war has brought a crippling energy crisis that reduces power supplies to homes to a couple of hours a day, but government officials boast that they have militarised the entire economy and will spare nothing for Karabakh.

Baku, built on the Caspian Sea shoreline, bustles with life and — rare for the Transcaucasus — restaurants are open after dark. The private sector is booming and shops are crammed with imported and domestic goods.

The country is on the verge of signing huge deals with foreign oil companies which will develop its offshore fields and almost certainly usher in a period of economic boom.

Government officials openly admit they are fighting not only a crisis on the battlefield, but a crisis in

spirit. Technically all 18 to 40 year old males are subject to military conscription. In reality few serve, due to a mix of draft evasion and official corruption.

Baku's cafes, street vendor stalls and food markets are teeming with men falling into the military age category.

When asked why they are not at the front, they produce small documents called "spravka" excusing them from service, mainly for medical reasons.

Sarkis Mamedov stood selling imported foods on one of the city's main thoroughfares. Asked why he wasn't fighting, despite frequent roundups by authorities, he produced a sheet of white paper with official stamps by way of explanation.

"I have a contusion," he said. Within about 20 metres of him there were three other men who gave the same reason.

"Seventy per cent of the population will tell you privately that they would give up Karabakh if the Armenians would pull out of the other territories in Azerbaijan which they have occupied," said one local journalist.

The Armenians now control 20 per cent of Azerbaijan, including Karabakh, and

are slowly creeping deeper into its territory.

It is hard to imagine how the Azeris could give up much more ground and still not be forced to sign some sort of conciliatory peace deal. The all important city of Evlakh, a railroad, and energy junction, lies only 20 km from the front lines. It was 40 km away this time last year.

Officially President Haydar Aliyev's government is not admitting defeat yet, but the latest compromises in peace talks suggest it realises just how bleak things look.

Azeri representatives have for the first time recognised the enclave's government as a party to the conflict.

Both sides say a Russian plan to place peacekeepers around the region, coupled with an Armenian withdrawal from the areas adjacent to Karabakh, is bound to be signed soon, despite resistance in Azerbaijan from opposition groups.

On the front, obviously poorly trained soldiers yield more and more territory. They tell bow they have been pushed back several times during the past few months, a story repeated up and down the Azeri front-lines.

"Tell the Armenians that we will win anyway," one says, earnestly but unconvincedly.

Lebanon seeks Israeli guarantees

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon Army (SLA), have controlled a "security zone" along the international border since 1985.

Lebanese troops fired anti-aircraft machineguns at Israeli helicopter gunships hovering over the coast north of Beirut overnight, security sources said.

None of the helicopters, flying in from the Mediterranean over the port of Jounieh, were hit, and they then flew over mountains to the east and reached the Bekaa Valley,

they said. Meanwhile, a Fijian U.N. peacekeeper has died of gunshot wounds he suffered last week in a clash with the guerrillas that occurred during the height of the latest confrontation between Israel and Hizbollah, U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said.

Mr. Boue's statement came as rocket and artillery exchanges in South Lebanon between Israeli forces and Hizbollah guerrillas dwindled to sporadic skirmishes.

Lloyds accord expected

(Continued from page 1)

All cargo addressed to consignees in Iraq will be inspected separately for adherence to the sanctions and those consignments will be allowed to leave the port only after approval by the Sanctions Committee wherever necessary.

Food and medicine are exempt from the sanctions and therefore do not need sanctions approval. Other items related to the production and distribution of food and medicine are also allowed, but they should have prior Sanctions Committee approval.

It is expected that the Lloyds presence at Aqaba will cost nearly \$3 million for the first year. Importers will pay the cost on the basis of the tonnage of their imports and the amount will be remitted to a special account, which in turn will be linked with an as-yet undesignated escrow account at the U.N. at the disposal of the secretary-general.

The sources noted that such an arrangement will have clear

transparency of the amount that Jordanian importers pay and allow the importers to apply for compensation of equal amount from the U.N.

Diplomatic sources said the United States, the most hard-line advocate of the sanctions against Iraq, had agreed to most of the points. No details were immediately available of disagreements if any.

Washington accepted the proposal to replace the sea-based inspection of Aqaba-bound vessels by U.S. warships with a land-based verification system in April. The acceptance came after Jordan made its return to peace talks with Israel conditional on an end to the inspections, which cost the Kingdom more than \$1 billion since the sanctions against Iraq were imposed in August 1990.

Importers and shipping agents have welcomed the Lloyds arrangements saying it would not only ease their financial burdens and logistical problems but will also encourage shipping lines to resume their regular services to Aqaba.

Religious right feeds on American's needs

By Gretchen Cook
Agence France Presse

WASHINGTON — Democrats are pushing to get gays in the military, condoms in schools and the abortion pill on the market but the religious right is fusing the sacred with the secular for an attack on all fronts.

The Christian Defence Coalition (CDC) has set up a fund for Paula Jones' sexual harassment suit against President Bill Clinton and evangelist Jerry Falwell is hawking videotapes of the accused discussing the very acts he has lobbied to keep off the airwaves.

Once apolitical fundamentalist Christians are now running for school board seats from which they hope to revamp sex education programmes and replace evolution with creationism on the curriculum.

The Christian Coalition has launched a \$1.4 million campaign to defeat Mr. Clinton's health care reform plan and is mobilising its some 1.2 million members to back measures ranging from school prayer to gun control.

"In the past, people looked at the radical right as a minor element but now they are having a major impact on national policy. There isn't an issue that isn't affected," said Pat Lewis, policy director for the National Jewish Democratic Council (NJDC).

Indeed, the religious right has its fingers in many pies, worrying labour leaders about their drive for "right-to-work" laws which made union membership optional and frightening environmentalists with legislation to protect businesses against land use regulations.

But the ones they have running the most scared are Democrats who now control both the White House and the Congress and are facing

several tight races in the November mid-term legislative elections.

The Christian Coalition, which has \$18 million earmarked for "political activities," bagged one Democrat last month in a special vote for an empty seat in Kentucky, where a religious book store owner was elected by a landslide.

The coalition's spokesman Mike Russell attributed that victory to the improving relationship between the Republican Party, which supplied the funds, and the religious groups, which supplied the campaigning foot soldiers.

That alliance was initiated during the 1980 campaign, when Republican mobilised masses of fundamentalist Christians — particularly in the southern "bible belt" — to get out the vote for Ronald Reagan.

But the partnership all but broke down in August 1992,


when the religious right wing tried to dictate the party's platform during Republican Convention and former president George Bush's failed reelection bid.

"Voters are fearful of extremists in any direction and they saw it right there on prime time television," said Ms. Lewis, who added that the religious right learned a valuable lesson.

"They are smart politically and they're getting smarter," she said, noting that the religious right would be fielding a lot of "stealth candidates" who are not quite as open about their affiliations.

They will also be toning down their image as bible-thumping fundamentalists who are unbending on issues such as school prayer and abortion.

"We have developed a political maturity which allows us to work with different candidates," said Mr. Russell.



GULF AIR

EAST

FOR MORE INFORMATION ON ROUTES AND SERVICES, CONTACT YOUR LOCAL TRAVEL AGENT OR GULF AIR ON 653613.

GULF AIR STYLE

Gulf Air flies nonstop from Amman to the Gulf with a host of convenient onward connections to Bangkok, Hong Kong, Manila, Singapore and Jakarta. Whichever class you travel, you'll fly in comfort and style, enjoying our traditional hospitality. Come fly with us and discover the international smile of the Gulf.



Aqaba hopes for dramatic revival in peaceful M.E.

AQABA, Jordan (R) — After years of rising investment but falling demand, Jordan's Red Sea port of Aqaba hopes for a future as a key trade conduit to a peaceful, prosperous Middle East.

"We are talking about a wide market in the Arab World," Dr. Dureid Mahasneh, director-general for Jordan's only outlet to the sea, said beside the docks stretching south from Aqaba. "There are no limits to where you would import or export."

Dr. Mahasneh reels off facilities installed over the past decade: Specialised ports for cement and oil, mechanised handling of grain, a modern container port, more warehouses and plans for a new passenger terminal. New roads bypass Aqaba and speed goods to neighbouring countries.

"I think we can easily work at 30 million tonnes a year," said the lifelong resident of the ancient Red Sea town. "We are working on 30 per cent of our capacity."

Jordan blamed that situation mainly on the inspections of Aqaba-bound ships by the U.S.-led flotilla that has enforced U.N. trade sanctions on Iraq since it invaded Kuwait in 1990.

King Hussein's threat to boycott Middle East peace talks unless the "siege" was lifted produced U.S. acceptance in April of a compromise that will replace naval searches with land inspection by a neutral body, Lloyd's List.

Once a contract is signed between Lloyd's and the Jordanian government — expected this month — sea searches are to end.

Although only a few dozen ships were refused entry to Aqaba, the cost was high. Ships were delayed and had to reduce cargoes to allow easy searches, insurance rates rose and shipping companies pushed up charges when half the lines stopped coming.

Dr. Mahasneh said lost tonnage had cost the country about \$300 million a year in economic activity. And what did arrive cost an extra \$500 for each standard 20-foot (six-metre) container.

But Aqaba will not suddenly boom when naval searches end — they were a product of Iraq's dependence on imports by Iraq. For better (most of the 1980s) and for worse (ever since), Aqaba has been linked to the amount imported by Iraq.

As Iraq battled Iran from 1980 to 1988 and the Gulf became a war zone, Aqaba's business soared. New terminals were built, major highways were drawn across the desert. Tonnage, which fell below 12 million tonnes last year, peaked in 1989 at some 20 million tonnes.

With the end of the war and Iraq's mounting financial difficulties, imports began to taper off. They collapsed when Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990, precipitating the sweep-

ing U.N. trade blockade that still remains.

Now, Aqaba is counting on a new Middle East.

Peace talks with Israel, started after the 1991 Gulf war, hold the promise of ending nearly half a century of conflict. Iraq remains under U.N. sanctions, but eventually Iraqi oil will again flow out and imports in.

Syria, which has quietly undergone an economic shift toward the private sector, could be a new customer for Aqaba. The port even hopes to ship Asian goods to Lebanon, which is rebuilding after years of civil war.

It will not, of course, mean automatic prosperity for Aqaba even if a peaceful Middle East emerges — a hope injected with a dose of realism when Yemen erupted in civil war last month and reminded everyone of the remaining divisions in the region.

But Dr. Mahasneh, a marine biologist before his current

role, is confident. He says high productivity in Aqaba means it can undercut competition from Lebanon and Syria's Mediterranean ports, certainly on any goods arriving from Asia. He thinks it can even import European products more cheaply.

Iraq will undoubtedly want direct imports once sanctions are lifted. Late last year it began to take the limited imports allowed, mainly food, through its river port of Umm Kasr.

But Umm Kasr can take ships of only about 25,000 tonnes and must be dredged continually because of silt. Moreover, it could not handle the volume of imports that many predict when Iraq has the opportunity to make up for years of shortages.

"I don't think it's for the political reason that the Iraqis will come back to Aqaba, it's for the economic benefits," Dr. Mahasneh said. "Umm Kasr will surely not take more than 10 per cent of their imports."

However, the most obvious role for Aqaba in a peaceful Middle East can be seen across the Red Sea waters that sparkle outside his office window.

The port is only a few kilometres from Saudi Arabia and Egypt — and most importantly is beside Israel's only outlet to the Red Sea.

Israel, with an even shorter coastline than Jordan, has squeezed five-star hotels around its small port of Eilat. If economics rather than politics dictate, Aqaba's facilities could easily meet Israel's shipping needs.

"There hasn't been serious talking about it, but if there is peace everything is possible, the sky is the limit," said Dr. Mahasneh, who is involved in Jordanian-Israeli peace talks.

"Business is for everyone to pick up. I think we would have an excess of capacity that could take anything coming in," he said.

China and Hong Kong become second-biggest investment destinations for Japanese firms

TOKYO (AFP) — China and Hong Kong pushed Britain aside last year to emerge as the biggest destination for Japanese companies making direct investments abroad after the United States, the finance ministry has said.

The ministry said foreign investment applications grew six per cent from a year earlier to \$36.03 billion in the year to March, reversing a three-year slide after outflows peaked at \$67.5 billion four years earlier.

The rebound in Japanese direct investment abroad last year was largely supported by increased flows to European nations, especially the Netherlands, Ireland and Switzerland, the ministry said.

Japanese investment in North and South America also recovered but flows toward the Asia-Pacific region were only modestly higher with investment in most major countries falling with the notable exception of China and Hong Kong.

China replaced Indonesia as the biggest Asian recipient of Japanese investment, absorbing some \$1.7 billion. The figure was up 58 per cent from a year earlier and accounted for 4.7 per cent of Japan's total investment worldwide — the same as Germany, France, Italy and Spain combined.

Japanese investment in Hong Kong, the British colony which reverts to Chinese sovereignty in three years, jumped 68 per cent to \$1.2 billion in the same period, accounting for 3.4 per cent of the total.

With China and Hong Kong, whose economies are becoming increasingly intertwined as the 1997 deadline approaches, soaking up more than eight per cent of total Japanese investment, they surpassed Britain's share of seven per cent.

During the previous year, China and Hong Kong absorbed only 5.4 per cent of Japan's direct investment abroad, well below the British share of 8.6 per cent also less than 6.3 per cent share for Australia which ranked third.

The United States, however, remains the undisputed leader as the most popular investment destination for Japanese companies, accounting for more than 40 per cent in both the latest year and the previous year.

In terms of Japan's accumulated foreign investments of almost \$423 billion since 1951, the United States accounts for 41.9 per cent followed by Britain with 7.5 per cent and Australia with 5.4 per cent.

Panama, which has an especially strong Japanese shipping presence, ranks fourth with 4.8 per cent followed by China and Hong Kong with 4.5 per cent, just ahead of the Netherlands with 4.4 per cent.

In the year just ended, Japanese investment flows to the United States and Canada climbed 4.9 per cent from a year earlier to \$15.3 billion.

But Japanese investment in Europe expanded at a faster pace of 12.4 per cent to reach \$7.9 billion. Despite reduced flows to Britain, investment was up sharply in the Netherlands, Ireland, Switzerland, France and Turkey.

Direct investment in Asia was only 3.3 per cent higher at \$6.6 billion with increased flows to China, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea and the Philippines offset by declining investment in Indonesia, Singapore and Thailand.

Japan's direct investment in Australia also fell sharply, dropping 11.4 per cent to \$1.9 billion, the ministry said.

Investment in Latin America and the Caribbean meanwhile climbed 23.6 per cent from a year earlier to \$3.4 billion. For other regions, investment in the Middle East plunged 70 per cent to \$217 million while flows to Africa jumped 126 per cent from a year earlier to \$539 million.

The ministry defines direct investment as money invested by Japanese companies in overseas branches, subsidiaries and affiliates in which they own at least 10 per cent of the equity. Real-estate deals for business purposes are included, but not those for personal use.

According to another report, foreign direct investment in Japan declined 25 per cent from a year earlier to \$3.1 billion in the year to March, despite sharply higher investment from Asia.

Booned by increased flows from companies in Singapore and Taiwan, investment from Asia jumped from \$99 million to \$464 million, boosting its share from 2.4 per cent of the total to 15.1 per cent, the ministry said.

Singapore investment soared from \$18 million to \$268 million and Taiwanese investment rose from \$25 million to \$143 million. Hong Kong investment fell from \$38 million to \$32 million but Chinese investment rose from \$5 million to \$15 million.

A ministry official said the sharp increase in direct investment from Singapore partly reflected the activities of foreign companies in the island republic, which serves as regional headquarters for many companies.

Direct investment in Japan from other regions, including the United States and Europe, declined sharply in the same period.

The United States, the largest single investor in Japan, saw its investments decline from \$1.3 billion to \$930 million.

Total investment from Europe fell from \$1.5 billion to barely \$1 billion, depressed by reduced flows from Britain and Switzerland.

But investment from the Netherlands jumped from \$207 million to \$283 million and investment from Ireland surged from \$0.3 million a year earlier to \$213 million the ministry said.

Israel to privatise national airline El Al

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel announced plans Monday to sell 51 per cent of its national airline El Al in public share offerings at home and abroad.

No date was set for the sale approved by the government's privatisation committee, but the transport ministry said it would take place after the once-ailing carrier is taken out of a 13-year-long receivership in October.

"El Al is a national carrier and its shares should be sold to the public and not to an investor who would be free to do as he pleased with the airline," Transport Minister Yisrael Kesser told reporters.

The sell-off is part of a privatisation drive under which the Israeli treasury hopes to pocket about \$1 billion this year.

El Al, a name that has become synonymous with stringent security, comes with some excess baggage.

It pays \$55 million in annual security costs — 80 per cent of which is currently met by the government — and it is grounded on the Jewish Sabbath under a ban demanded by religious political parties.

Mr. Kesser said the state must retain a "golden share" in El Al to safeguard the national interest. In past Arab-Israeli wars and most recently the 1992 Gulf conflict, El Al kept air lines to Israel open when other airlines stopped flying the route.

Israeli officials did not name the foreign markets on which El Al would offer shares, but industry analysts said New York was a strong possibility.

A transport ministry spokesman said the government's privatisation committee would decide at a later date how to dispose of the remaining 49 per cent stake in the airline.

El Al has yet to report its 1993 results. However a company official said the carrier had net profits last year of approximately \$10 million and revenues topping \$1 billion.

Last month Israel appointed two groups of foreign and local consulting and accounting firms to carry out separate valuations of the airline.

El Al currently operates an all-Boeing fleet of 22 jets and recently ordered a third \$150 million Boeing 747-400 Jumbo jet for delivery in May 1995.

El Al President Rafi Harlev said in April that for its next order the airline is considering whether to buy Boeing's new 777 twin-jet, the competing MD-11 from McDonnell Douglas Corp. or the Airbus A-340.

He said one of the reasons for the new order is the prospect for El Al to expand its service into the rapidly growing Asian market.

Mr. Harlev predicted El Al would get the right to fly over Jordan and Saudi Arabia within two to three years, cutting three hours from flights between Israel and East Asia.

But the airline has run into turbulence with U.S. aviation authorities.

The U.S. Department of Transportation last week said it was ordering El Al to cut scheduled service between New York and Tel Aviv by three non-stop round trip flights per week, effective June 22, because of a dispute with World Airways.

Israel has refused to authorise flights to Tel Aviv by the U.S. carrier, saying the airline was offering cut-rate tickets far below realistic prices in an already overcrowded market.

Economic benefits of Middle East peace are a pipe-dream, experts say

TEL AVIV (AFP) — More realism and less day-dreaming about an economic boom would do Middle East peace negotiators good, an Israeli strategic studies centre said in its latest publication.

"Even the most comprehensive Middle East peace will not deliver economic salvation to the region," warned the Begin-Sadat (BESA) Centre at Tel Aviv's Bar Ilan University.

"More realism and less day-dreaming will do Mideast peace negotiators and their people a lot of good," said the study led by Professor Eliyahu Kanovsky.

"It is unlikely that Israel-Arab peace accords will lead to any appreciable rise in the regional standard of living, to substantial cuts in military expenditures, to a sizeable flow of foreign private investment or to large scale regional trade and tourism."

The study admitted that Arab-Israeli peace accords would encourage investment which may contribute greater stability to shaky regimes.

But it attacked "the common wisdom that the 'coming economic boom' constitutes at least in part, the glue which will make peace agreements stick."

"Arab countries in the region face acute internal economic difficulties, threatening their political stability. The current drains on Israel's economy (military spending and debt) are not about to evaporate either," the study pointed out.

It also noted that not only Israelis but Palestinians too were getting carried away with "inflated expectations."

"Failure to meet these unsubstantiated forecasts can only disappoint and dishearten, threatening to sour Palestinian Arabs, Israelis and others on the peace process," the study said.

The BESA centre, named after Israeli prime minister Menachem Begin and Egyptian president Anwar Sadat who brought peace between their two countries in 1978, describes itself as non-partisan and independent, seeking to contribute to the advancement of peace and security.

ADB official urges Asia to liberalise interest rates to meet funding needs

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asian countries need to liberalise interest rates to help meet the massive funding needs of infrastructure development, a top Asian Development Bank (ADB) official said Monday.

Gunther Schulz, ADB's vice president for finance and administration, said internal funding, especially through bond markets, was the solution to Asia's infrastructural funding needs, estimated to be \$1 trillion by 2000.

"Bond financing is very suitable for long term infrastructure funding since it provides capital at market-driven fixed interest rates. Bank loans are typically too short and expensive," Mr. Schulz said.

"However, to make capital markets work efficiently, monetary policies need to recognise a free interplay of supply and demand, and interest rate policies, therefore, need to be liberalised," he said in a keynote address at the start of

a two-day investment conference.

Mr. Schulz said an estimated \$600 million-to-700 million in savings can be tapped through the capital markets, a large part of that through bond markets.

He said governments would also have to pay greater attention to providing markets with tradable securities throughout the maturity structure to create benchmarks for pricing and a yield curve.

"This is important, for the development of liquidity is a prime consideration for bond-market investors," he said.

The ADB has been the pioneer in building up the regional market for so-called Dragon bonds — bonds issued in Asian countries outside of Japan — and has contributed to the development of the Hong Kong dollar bond market.

U.N.: S. Africa must bridge gulf in living standards

GENEVA (AFP) — South Africa must bridge the huge difference in living standards between blacks and whites if it is to complete the successful transition to a post-apartheid society, according to an annual U.N. report on economic development.

The difference in development between blacks and whites in South Africa is as great as that between Spain and the Congo, say the authors of the 1994 report sponsored by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), warning of the existence "not of two distinct populations but of two distinct worlds."

South Africa stands 93rd in a list of 173 countries ranked according to the standard of living, or HDI — human development indicator — in the report.

However the whites would rank 24th, with the black population in 123rd position if their living standards were gauged separately.

In its 1993 report, the UNDP had noted widely divergent living standards among whites, blacks and hispanics in the United States. In South Africa, the latest report noted, the divergence is four times as great.

"These disparities contain in themselves the seeds of serious political, economic and social troubles," the report said. "They deserve urgent attention from political leaders."

The greatest challenge facing South Africa's leaders, following from the country's first all-race elections last month, will be to achieve the integration of the less privileged sectors of society without racial violence, the report's authors added.

political, economic and social troubles," the report said. "They deserve urgent attention from political leaders."

The greatest challenge facing South Africa's leaders, following from the country's first all-race elections last month, will be to achieve the integration of the less privileged sectors of society without racial violence, the report's authors added.

THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen

"You spend so much time talking about your feelings, when do you find time to feel your feelings?"

JUMBLES THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Hans Arnold and Mike Anglin

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

NAWGO
LECEX
TRIAFY
HACCTY

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here: A

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ABASH PRINT POLITE BALLET
Answer: What the miners considered their workplace — THE PITS

Peanuts

YESTERDAY I STOOD HERE IN THE RAIN FOR TEN MINUTES WAITING FOR THE SCHOOL BUS.

AFTER I GOT TO SCHOOL, YOU KNOW WHAT I LEARNED? I LEARNED HOW WIDE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS.

I STOOD IN THE RAIN FOR TEN MINUTES TO LEARN HOW WIDE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IS!

HOW WIDE IS THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER?

I FORGOT

Andy Capp

HE'S FINE, FLO. STILL ON AT ME TO MARRY HIM. WHAT HE SEES IN ME I DO NOT KNOW.

MEN CAN SOMETIMES SEE THINGS IN US THAT WE DON'T SEE IN OURSELVES, DEAR.

THIS BLOKE DID THAT I WAS A COMPLETE TWIT.

Mutt'n'Jeff

I'M JUST TALKING OLD. NANCY THE GAME WARDEN'S PLACE FOR ANHILE! ITS NICE WORK!

THIS JOB GETS YOU OUT IN THE FRESH AIR AND SUNLIGHT! ITS HEALTHY FOR YOU!

BUT A GAME WARDEN HAS A JOB TO DO TOO! JUST A MINUTE, SIR, I'LL HAVE TO INSPECT THAT CATCH OF YOURS!

YEH, ITS O.K. ITS NOT UNDERSTANDABLE! YOU MAY KEEP IT!

Horoscope not received

THE Daily Crossword by Florence C. Adler

ACROSS

- Embrace
- High mountain
- List of names
- Toot
- Ornello, e.g.
- Butterline
- English
- protestant
- monument
- Sharp noise
- Two-year-old sheep
- Cast a basket
- Semagali city
- Beget
- Bog
- Thin disk
- Boomerang
- Relief
- Purchase price
- Rever
- North Carolina college
- Transverse
- Fasting period
- Contraint boldly
- Indistinct
- Sword
- Source of happiness
- Consecrate
- Advance
- Enamelled metalware
- Period of duty
- Hurt
- Dogle
- Fruit drink
- On — with (equal to)
- Hyrim
- Funny Jay
- Border lake
- Glorify
- Short distance
- Be imminent
- Where the Truckee flows
- Confederate
- signature
- Lawmaker
- club
- Showing
- Excellent
- Diary
- Foretells
- J. B. or Nelson
- Norman of TV
- Out of
- Deal out
- Trumpet
- Moan's boat
- Short distance
- Having great
- luck
- Piece dish: var.
- Beauty
- Whiskey
- Thoughts
- Outer
- coverings
- Cigar end
- Mileage
- Laggy bird
- Property
- Four-flush
- Garden tool
- Machete
- Accept
- Copysist
- Waiting stick
- 204
- Tie for an Arab headress
- Printing term
- Italian city
- Priest's robe
- Mineral
- Lumber tool

هكذا في الأصل

Rwandan army launches major offensive; U.N. suspends evacuation

KIGALI (R) — Heavy fighting raged across Rwanda Monday as government forces launched a major counteroffensive against rebels, dashing hopes of an imminent end to two months of bloodshed and carnage.

A U.N. military spokesman in Rwanda, Major Jean Guy Plante, said it was the first counteroffensive by government troops in two months and was concentrated in territory north and south of the capital Kigali.

"It is a major counterattack. They (government forces) want to push back the whole of the RPF (Rwanda Patriotic Front) forces to the west of the Kigali-Butare Road," he said. "Whether it will work is another story, but they are really trying hard."

Maj. Plante said U.N. operations to evacuate civilians trapped by the fighting were on hold pending the arrival of more fuel for the depleted

U.N. force in the central African country.

He said all U.N. relief flights were cancelled until Friday after mortar bombs hit the airport Sunday, but the U.N. hoped to organise a land convoy through rebel-held Rwanda from Uganda with much-needed supplies.

Heavy fighting raged about 50 kilometres northwest of Kigali, where the rebels were having a hard time with government troops caught behind their lines during an earlier RPF advance.

Aid officials estimate more than 500,000 and perhaps up to one million people may have been killed in civil wars and massacres since the assassination of Hutu President Juvenal Habyarimana in a rocket attack on his plane on April 6.

The RPF launched its latest offensive after the attack in which neighbouring Burundi's Hutu President Cyprien Ntary-

amira also died, saying it was the only way to stop Mr. Habyarimana loyalists massacring all critics and opponents.

In what U.N. officers said was a show of strength to prove they were not yet defeated, government troops bombarded Kigali Airport Sunday as a plane carrying an Italian government official landed forcing it to flee immediately.

Italian Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Franco Rocchetta was arriving for a visit to determine whether Italy should reinforce the U.N. garrison in Rwanda, largely paralysed by fighting.

The U.N. officers said the firing on the airport showed that security guarantees given to the U.N. could not be trusted.

Maj. Plante said the U.N. had put on hold the evacuation of civilians trapped behind frontlines in the divided capital

because of a fuel shortage. It was the second suspension within three days.

The U.N. first suspended the operation to evacuate thousands of refugees from a local church barely after it had begun Friday when rebels fired on a U.N. convoy carrying refugees to government-held areas.

The U.N. commander in Rwanda, Major-General Romeo Dallaire, said RPF Commander-In-Chief Major-General Paul Kagame had told him that a local commander who ordered the firing had been severely disciplined.

On Sunday, U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali accused the international community of being indifferent to the genocide in the tiny central African state.

"Many states of the world are clearly slacking, and what is new, indifferent," the U.N. chief was quoted as saying in a German magazine.



A small Rwandan child cries as it sits in the dirt in a refugee camp some 50 km from the Rwandan capital Kigali. Meanwhile, Rwandan government forces have launched their first major counterattack and are trying to push rebels of the main road which runs from Kigali to the border with Burundi (AFP photo).

Philippines blames rebels for bombing

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (R) — A Philippine military commander Monday blamed Muslim guerrillas for the bombing of a southern commercial centre and ordered his men to capture the rebel leader dead or alive.

Major-General Orlando Soriano said the car bomb that wounded 33 people in Zamboanga Sunday evening was

intended to divert the military from its four-day assault on the hideout of the Muslim fundamentalist Abu Sayyaf Group in nearby Jolo Island.

"This is pre-planned by the Abu Sayyaf to lessen the pressure on them... but we will continue our drive, we are going to continue the pressure," the regional commander

said. "My instruction to soldiers is to get him dead or alive," Gen. Soriano said of rebel leader Abdurajak Janjalani, who assumed the name Abu Sayyaf (sword of God) after taking command of young Muslim radicals.

Police increased patrols around churches, schools, pet-

rol stations and other facilities in Zamboanga, a largely Christian city of 430,000 people, to prevent further attacks.

Military reports said 30 guerrillas and eight soldiers had died in fighting since 1,400 troops, backed by gunboats and warplanes, launched their offensive on the rebels' mountain stronghold in Jolo Friday.

Khasbulatov stripped of right to live in Chechnya

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russian Khasbulatov, one of the leaders of an armed uprising against President Boris Yeltsin last year, has been stripped of his right to live in his home region of Chechnya in southern Russia, local agencies said.

Chechen Press said the parliamentary chairman, who spent five-months in jail after the rising failed, was accused by a meeting of the rebel Chechen Republic's leaders of "collusion with imperial Russian forces."

It also accused him of pushing independence, which declared Chechnya, which declared independence of Russia in 1991, towards bloodshed. Two weeks after Yeltsin set aside the constitution and dissolved Russia's old Supreme Soviet parliament last autumn, Mr. Khasbulatov urged supporters from the balcony of the legislature to storm the Kremlin.

The uprising failed and he was jailed along with other leaders. After his release from prison under an amnesty Mr. Khasbulatov said he would leave politics. After a short stay with his mother in Chechnya he returned to the scientific institute where he worked before his political career began.

But to some in the politically divided Chechnya, at the foot of the Caucasus Mountains, Mr. Khasbulatov is seen as a man who could unite opposition to rebel Chechen leader Dzhokhar Dudayev. Interfax News Agency said Chechnya will revoke residence rights for Mr. Khasbulatov and several other Chechen opposition leaders for plotting against the breakaway Russian republic.

The officials concerned are accused of "attempting to dismantle the Chechen state" and of involvement in last month's failed assassination attempt against President Dzhokhar Dudayev, the Foreign Ministry was quoted as saying.

The ministry did not say how it would implement the measure. A few days after the assassination attempt, in which three people were killed, Russian President Boris Yeltsin declared a state of emergency in Samkha and Malgobek, regions of neighbouring Ingushetia which Chechnya claims are its own.

Other figures who will not be allowed into Chechnya include Dokku Zavgaev, parliamentary speaker of the former Soviet Republic of Chechnya-Ingushetia, who lives in Moscow, and Yuragi Mamadaye, a former deputy prime minister and leader of an opposition "government of national confidence."

Chechen authorities accused Russia of a "new aggression" this weekend, saying that the Russian military had deployed 26 helicopters on the state's southern border.

Bhutto's brother declares war on party 'hijackers'

ISLAMABAD (AFP) — The ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) may be headed for a split as Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and her estranged brother fight to capitalise on their late father's political legacy.

Thousands greeted Murtaza Bhutto, Benazir's brother, after a court released him from prison on bond late Sunday, where he was being held on six charges of terrorism, subversive activities, sedition and conspiring to topple the government.

After his release he vowed to fight those who he said hijacked his late father's party. "The battle will start now between the real supporters of Zulfikar Ali Bhutto and those who misused my late father's name," Murtaza told a jubilant crowd after winning the first round of a court battle against his sister's government.

In a midnight speech Sunday at a rally outside the family's seaside villa on Karachi's Clifton Beach, he said there would be only one original Pakistan People's Party (PPP).

"I will fight for the rights of the oppressed people, the real game has just started," he added.

He was arrested in November upon his return from 16 years of self-imposed exile in Damascus. The tall, well-built and younger Bhutto was earlier granted bail in five of the

charges. "There is no iota of evidence connecting the accused with the alleged conspiracy" to overthrow the government, the special anti-terrorist court Judge Ali Ahmad Junejo observed while granting bail in the sixth and final case.

Murtaza, 38, was charged with infiltrating trained Indian saboteurs into Pakistan in 1992, during the government of former Premier Nawaz Sharif.

Thousands of men and women greeted Murtaza when he came out of the Landhi Jail in suburban Karachi. Some chanted slogans of "goodbye Benazir, welcome Murtaza."

Addressing the rally, Mr. Murtaza praised the judge for overcoming government pressures and granting him bail. "Some people in the government wanted to hang me. But my release has proved that I am innocent."

Urging his sister to leave the "handouts and opportunists," he invited Benazir to join his faction.

Observers said differences between brother and sister stemmed from Murtaza's attempt to emerge as political heir to his father and PPP founder, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who was overthrown by late General Mohammad Zia Ul Haq in 1977 and hanged two years later.

U.K. ex-minister rejects secret love-child charge

LONDON (R) — An aristocratic ex-minister whose affairs with a judge's wife and his two daughters have titillated Britain turned to his lawyers over new allegations that he has a love-child by yet another woman.

Alan Clark, a self-confessed philanderer who was a defence minister in former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's government, said he was astounded by the charges.

Judge's wife Valerie Harkess told Sunday's News Of The World newspaper that Clark had a son, Billy, by a woman of 24 and had told her of a fantasy concerning his mother-in-law. Mr. Clark, 66, told the Press Association news agency from his 12th century castle home in southern England the allegations were not true and he was leaving the matter to his lawyers.

It was a sour twist to a lurid story that has gripped the prurient public with its three-way sexual shenanigans, allegations of blackmail, a hint of political scandal and plenty of punditry about the morals of Britain's upper classes.

Mr. Clark, with a personal fortune estimated at £40 million (\$60 million), roguishly alluded in his best-selling memoirs to an affair with three women he called his "coven."

Their identity became public a week ago when South African Valerie Harkess, her husband James, and one of her two adopted daughters, Josephine, flew into London

from Cape Town to put their side of the story.

In a series of interviews choreographed by a well-known society publicist, Valerie Harkess disclosed how she wept for days after Mr. Clark told her he had also bedded her daughter Alison — but she still continued the affair.

James Harkess, a former deputy judge in Britain before he emigrated in 1977, said Mr. Clark deserved to be horse-whipped. Mr. Clark, tall with craggy good looks, cheerfully agreed with him.

Mr. Clark's long-suffering wife, Jane, handed headline writers another gift by accusing the Harkesses of demanding £100,000 (\$150,000) to stop them from going to the papers — and slobadily suggesting such money-grubbing was typical of people from "below stairs."

In the Mail On Sunday, Jane Clark said she was actually glad the affair — which she had known about — had become public. "Because at last it's finished. Quite frankly they can't ring up and drone on at him any more," she said.

In a companion article, Alan Clark said he was filled with remorse. But he added: "The trouble about my sort of behaviour is that it's easy to feel remorse and to have a conscience and to regret it, but that's really no excuse. The simple answer is: 'You should have thought about that in the first place. But one doesn't.'"

Chinese airliner hijacked to Taiwan

TAIPEI (R) — A Chinese man surrendered to Taiwan authorities Monday after forcing a Chinese airliner to fly to Taiwan, the 12th hijacking from the mainland since April last year, an airport spokesman said.

The Boeing 737 from China Southern Airlines, carrying 131 passengers and eight crew members, was hijacked while on a domestic flight from Fuzhou to Guangzhou in southern China, the spokesman said.

It was the second hijacking of a Chinese airliner to Taiwan this year.

The airliner was intercepted by Taiwan Air Force fighters and landed safely at Taipei's International Airport.

It was not immediately known if anyone aboard was hurt. The identity of the hijacker was not made public.

Taiwan, following its normal policy, will send back the plane, crew and passengers but will detain the hijacker for trial, said a spokesman for the cabinet's Mainland Affairs Council, which sets policy towards China.

China and Taiwan, rivals since the Chinese Civil War, which ended in 1949, have held five unsuccessful rounds of talks since last year in an effort to agree on a pact under which Taiwan would send hijackers back.

Taiwan is currently holding 15 Chinese people who hijacked airliners to Taiwan since April last year. Fourteen of the group have been given jail terms of up to 13 years. The 15th is still on trial.

U.S. promises more action on Haiti

BELEM DO PARA, Brazil (AFP) — A senior U.S. diplomat wrapped up two days of high-level talks with regional partners in Brazil Sunday promising more action on resolving the crisis in Haiti soon.

Delegates from 34 countries were in Belem Do Para for the Organisation of American States (OAS) assembly which opens Monday and met over the weekend to discuss the impasse with the military rulers in Haiti.

"This meeting of the OAS... will reiterate the message of the hemisphere and of the whole international community, and that is that the reign of the de facto has to come to an end very soon," said Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott.

The United Nations tightened the international embargo against Haiti two weeks ago in an effort to force the return of ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

Bosnian peace talks on track after Serb pullout

GENEVA (Agencies) — Parties to the Bosnian war, ending a four-day deadlock, agreed to return to the negotiating table for ceasefire talks Monday after Serb forces caved in to international pressure and pulled out of a U.N.-declared exclusion zone.

"All conditions are met. Negotiations on an overall ceasefire will proceed this morning," Mohammad Sacirbey, ambassador to the Muslim-dominated government, told reporters.

His government had refused to resume the U.N.-sponsored talks for a ceasefire until Serbs totally withdrew from the zone around the eastern Bosnian town of Gorazde.

The refusal stalled the U.N. talks for four consecutive days. U.N. spokesman Michael Williams, also speaking to reporters, read a joint statement issued by the Bosnian forces and the United Nations in Gorazde which said that at 7:00 a.m. (0500 GMT) no Serb armed military elements remained in the three-kilometre zone.

Bosnian Vice President Ejup Ganic welcomed the news before heading for private talks with U.N. envoy for ex-Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, and a meeting with U.N. chief Boutros Ghali, also in the Swiss city.

The round-table talks were to begin after the tete-a-tete, Mr. Williams said. In Sarajevo, Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic gave his delegates the green light to discuss military issues at the talks. Radio Sarajevo said, quoting a statement from his office.

Mr. Akashi, questioned earlier by journalists about the duration of the truce, which the Muslim-dominated Bosnian government wants to lead to immediate talks on partition, said "that has to be negotiated. Some want it longer, we have to see what is the common agreement."

Mr. Akashi Sunday had given Bosnia's warring parties a final chance until Monday 9:00 a.m. (0700 GMT) to meet for the talks repeatedly stalled by disputes over the extent of a Serb withdrawal from the Gorazde exclusion zone.

Earlier, Mr. Williams had

said Mr. Akashi had given up after four days of delays and was preparing to return to Zagreb.

The weekend setback came a day after separate political talks here on the future of Bosnia under the sponsorship of a contact group comprising representatives of the European Union, Russia, the United Nations and the United States ended inconclusively.

Group negotiators met the Muslim-Croat and Serb delegations separately but made no progress on territorial issues, diplomatic sources said, adding that no resumption date had been set.

Bosnian leader Radovan Karadzic had meanwhile accused the Bosnians of "sabotaging the conference."

He said the Muslims invented "more and more demands and more and more pre-conditions and dupe the international community."

Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic was quoted Monday as saying any peace agreement splitting up Bosnia territory would be criminal.

"Before the war, we said that 58 per cent of the territory was inhabited by Bosnian Croats or just plain Bosnians. The problem is that any idea of division, or partition, is a criminal idea in itself," Mr. Silajdzic told the French daily Le Figaro.

"Because in my country, people lived together, not only in the same city, but on the same street, in the same building, in the same house and often even in the same bed," he said.

"What would be done with children of mixed parents, who are neither Serb nor Croat nor Bosnian?" Mr. Silajdzic said. "If the Serbs want to live separately and among themselves — within the sovereign state of Bosnia Herzegovina, of course — they can do it, but only in the areas where they were a majority before the conflict began," Mr. Silajdzic said.

About 40 Bosnian demonstrators outside U.N. headquarters in Sarajevo Monday, protesting the failure of the United Nations to secure the release of four Muslims arrested by Serbs while travelling in a U.N. vehicle.

1 survives, 159 die in Chinese airliner crash

BEIJING (R) — A Chinese airliner on a domestic flight from the tourist centre of Xian crashed Monday, killing all but one of the 160 people on board in China's worst known civil aviation disaster, officials said.

The Russian-built Tupolev-154 crashed eight minutes after take-off on China Northwest Airlines Flight 2303 to the southern city of Guangzhou.

China's Xinhua News Agency said of the 160 passengers and crew on board, nine were foreigners while one was a Hong Kong resident.

Officials at Xian's Emergency Rescue Centre said one person had been found alive and sent to hospital in critical condition.

They said they assumed all others on board were dead, although complete information was not yet available.

Reports from the scene were confused, and officials in Beijing declined to give out much information.

Government workers in Changan county, where the plane went down, said the plane's nose, cabin and tail were all shattered.

They said debris was scattered and rescue operations were being hampered by rain, which had fallen for two days.

At least four of those dead, including a child, were foreigners, although their nationality was not yet known.

The previous highest death toll from a plane crash in China was in November 1992 when all 141 people on board a China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 were killed when it slammed into a hill coming in to land at the scenic tourist city of Guilin.

Xian, the central China site of Monday's crash about 1000 kilometres southwest of Beijing, is the location of the famous army of Terracotta Tomb Warriors dating from 210 B.C., a prime tourist attraction.

It was the first Chinese crash since last November, when 12 people were killed as a China Northern Airlines MD-82 crashlanded near the western city of Urumqi.

China this year vowed to overhaul its air transport industry, which has groaned under the weight of a double-digit growth in demand. Unable even to train enough pilots, China's airlines have been plagued by crashes, hijackings and safety violations.

The International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA), in February cited China as one of the most dangerous places in which to fly after five crashes killed 76 people and 10 aircraft were hijacked to Taiwan in 1993.

In 1992, a series of accidents over a four-month period killed at least 276 passengers, including many foreigners.

China now has 33 regional airlines and more than 340 jets. The country Sunday announced it had expanded its fleet of surplus Soviet-era commercial jetliners, leasing five Tupolev Jumbos of the same model involved in Monday's crash.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

12-year-old makes bid to cross Atlantic

AUGUSTA, Maine (AFP) — A 12-year-old girl took to the skies Sunday hoping to become the youngest female pilot to cross the Atlantic. "If you put your mind to it you can accomplish anything," said Vicki Van Meter, as she climbed aboard the single-engine plane at Augusta State Airport, where some 200 people gathered to see her off. A flight instructor was also on board for the two-day flight as Van Meter is too young to fly legally alone.

The two will stop in Canada, Greenland and Iceland before landing in Scotland Tuesday, a path similar to that of Amelia Earhart, who became the first woman to fly solo across the Atlantic in 1932. "On this historic day, as you follow in the footsteps of Amelia Earhart, the thoughts of Mainers will be with you as you spread your wings, soar above the clouds and land among the pages of history books," Senator Bill Cohen wrote in a letter. Van Meter had other high profile well-wishers — including Vice President Al Gore. Last year she became the youngest female to fly across the country and hopes one day to become an astronaut.

Government workers in Changan county, where the plane went down, said the plane's nose, cabin and tail were all shattered.

They said debris was scattered and rescue operations were being hampered by rain, which had fallen for two days.

At least four of those dead, including a child, were foreigners, although their nationality was not yet known.

The previous highest death toll from a plane crash in China was in November 1992 when all 141 people on board a China Southern Airlines Boeing 737 were killed when it slammed into a hill coming in to land at the scenic tourist city of Guilin.

Siamese twins separated

TORONTO (AFP) — A team of doctors successfully separated infant Siamese twin girls joined at the abdomen after 20 hours in the operating room, hospital officials said Sunday.

"The separation went smoothly. It was an amazing team effort," said surgeon Robert Filler who directed some 50 doctors and nurses in the operation at Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The six-month-old twins remained in critical condition following the operation which ended Saturday, but Dr. Filler said that was usual for patients who have undergone such a complicated procedure and said the prognosis was good. "We anticipate they should be normal women when they grow up," he said. The hospital declined to identify the parents, but said that the father was Canadian and that the family lives in Mexico. The twins were attached near the diaphragm and shared a liver and an intestine, but each had two arms and two legs. They have been hospitalised since their Dec. 7 birth and could be discharged at the end of June if all goes well, the hospital said.

It was the first Chinese crash since last November, when 12 people were killed as a China Northern Airlines MD-82 crashlanded near the western city of Urumqi.

China this year vowed to overhaul its air transport industry, which has groaned under the weight of a double-digit growth in demand. Unable even to train enough pilots, China's airlines have been plagued by crashes, hijackings and safety violations.

The International Airline Passengers Association (IAPA), in February cited China as one of the most dangerous places in which to fly after five crashes killed 76 people and 10 aircraft were hijacked to Taiwan in 1993.

In 1992, a series of accidents over a four-month period killed at least 276 passengers, including many foreigners.

China now has 33 regional airlines and more than 340 jets. The country Sunday announced it had expanded its fleet of surplus Soviet-era commercial jetliners, leasing five Tupolev Jumbos of the same model involved in Monday's crash.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The country Sunday announced it had expanded its fleet of surplus Soviet-era commercial jetliners, leasing five Tupolev Jumbos of the same model involved in Monday's crash.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

The TU-154 jetliners will go into service on unspecified routes in China's overstretched air transport system.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sephardic Jews meet with Palestinians

JERICHO (AFP) — An Israeli delegation of Sephardic Jews and leftist intellectuals met officially for the first time Monday with Palestinian police leaders in this autonomous enclave. The 18-member delegation held talks with Jericho security chief Jibril Rajub and police head Hajj Ismail and congratulated them on autonomy. They pledged to work with the new Palestinian authorities toward peace and the establishment of a Palestinian state. Mr. Rajub, who has been banned by Israel from travel outside Jericho, welcomed the delegation in Hebrew and expressed optimism for future cooperation. Mr. Rajub refused to comment on his travel ban, but was overheard telling Palestinians he would visit them as soon as he would be allowed out. "I think this (the autonomy) is a first step," said Avi Sardugo, an Israeli lawyer of North African origin. "The second step will be the creation of a Palestinian state, and the third will be the economic and cultural integration of Israel in the Middle East. There will be cooperation between Oriental (Sephardic) Jews and Palestinians."

Israel returns seven Palestinian intelligence officers

AMMAN (AP) — Israel prevented seven Palestinian intelligence officers from entering the West Bank town of Jericho saying their names were not on a list of Palestinian policemen allowed to enter the autonomous territory, Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) sources said Monday. The sources, who declined to be identified, said the seven were turned away last Sunday from the King Hussein Bridge from among a group of 36 intelligence officers heading for Jericho. "The Israeli officers at the bridge said the names of seven were not in a list they had of Palestinians allowed to cross into the West Bank and Jericho," said one source. The rest were allowed in, the sources told the associated press. No further details were immediately available.

Italy plays down Israeli criticism

ROME (R) — Italy on Monday played down criticism from Israel over the appointment of neo-fascists to Rome's new government and said a meeting of the two countries' foreign ministers would confirm their close relations. Diplomatic sources said foreign ministers Antonio Martino and Shimon Peres were scheduled to meet in Luxembourg next Monday during talks between Israel and the European Union. "We expect only a positive outcome from that meeting," an Italian diplomatic source told Reuters. The source said Italy did not believe the criticism, expressed on Sunday by Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin, would affect Rome's traditional close ties with Israel.

Chad deal could help end crisis — Libya

CAIRO (AFP) — Libya's compliance with an international ruling to return a disputed desert border strip to Chad will help end the Lockerbie crisis, Libyan Foreign Minister Omar al-Muntasser said in an interview published Monday. The West favoured a peaceful resolution with Libya "particularly since its upright policies no longer threaten world peace or security," he told the London-based Sharq Al Awsat newspaper. Proof of those policies was Libya's "complete withdrawal from the Aouzou Strip, even though it was not in Libya's favour," Libya handed over the Aouzou Strip to Chadian control on May 30, after the International Court of Justice awarded the mineral-rich strip to Chad. The ruling has settled a 21-year-old dispute between the two countries. Libya and Chad on Sunday signed a friendship treaty in Tripoli, closing a 48-hour visit by Chadian President Idriss Deby and a large delegation.

Senior Algerian customs official murdered

ALGIERS (AFP) — A senior Algerian customs official, Abdullah Moussouni, was shot dead overnight at his home in Dergana, east of Algiers, the security services announced Monday. Officials gave no details of the circumstances in which Moussouni, 40, the director of the national data-processing and statistics centre of the customs service, was gunned down. Moussouni was the second senior civil servant to be murdered in a week, following the killing last Tuesday of the vice-chancellor of the University of Science and Technology at Bab Ezzouar, near Algiers.

Russians hold military talks in Syria

DAMASCUS (AP) — Russian and Syrian army commanders held talks Monday on boosting military cooperation, a month after Moscow reportedly wrote off most of Syria's \$10 billion military debt and agreed to sell it more weapons. The Russians, headed by chief of staff General Mikhail Kolesnikov, arrived Sunday. They were greeted at Damascus international airport by Syria's veteran chief of staff Gen. Hekmat Al Shehaby, a close aide of President Hafez Al Assad. The official Syrian Arab News Agency said the talks began immediately after Mr. Shehaby's office. They continued Monday, officials said.

Lebanon denies Israeli drugs charges

BAALBEK, Lebanon (AFP) — Lebanon on Monday denied Israeli reports that it had failed in its campaign to eradicate hashish and poppy growing in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley, as a U.N. delegation was set to begin drug talks here. "Israel is trying to undermine Lebanon and Syria's reputations," the head of the national anti-drug commission, Sultani Haidar, told the AFP. He dismissed as "provocation" a report published on May 27 by the Israeli daily Maariv alleging that Israel was developing a "biological weapon" to destroy Lebanese poppy fields to end drug-trafficking across the border. "There isn't a single plant of hashish or poppy in the Baalbek-Hermel region (of the Bekaa)," Mr. Haidar said. A delegation of the U.N. Development Programme for the fight against drugs in Lebanon was to start a five-day visit in Lebanon on Monday to discuss efforts to eradicate the growing of hashish and poppy from the Bekaa Valley.

Indian army carries out second Prithvi test

NEW DELHI (AFP) — The Indian army completed preliminary trial of the home-built surface missile Prithvi on Monday by carrying out a second successful test in three days, ignoring Pakistani concern about a missile race. The eight-metre long silver-white missile took off in clear weather from a mobile launcher at the Chandipur-on-Sea test range in the eastern coastal state of Orissa. Press Trust of India (PTI) reported from the site. The missile hit a pre-determined target in the Bay of Bengal after a perfect four-minute flight over 145 kilometres. PTI said, "It met the mission requirements as expected," an unnamed official source was quoted as saying. The test wrapped up preliminary "user-trials" on the missile preceding its possible induction into the army," the news agency said.

Fuel convoy arrives breaking Kabul blockade

KABUL (AFP) — A convoy of 50 fuel tankers arrived here Monday from the north breaking a month-long blockade of the city by forces opposed to President Burhanuddin Rabbani, officials said. Announcing the break in the 156-day blockade, officials said the convoy had come from the Central Asian republic of Kirghizistan, which borders Afghanistan. An alternate route was opened by former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masoud from Sher Khan River port to Kabul, by passing the main highway linking Kabul with northern Hainatara port. Defence Ministry sources said the 450-kilometre main highway was still blocked by troops belonging to General Abdul Rashid Dostum and Prime Minister Gulbudin Hekmatyar, but Mr. Masoud, Mr. Rabbani's main battlefield commander, had flushed out alliance troops from nearby Kunduz province.

D-Day ceremonies climax at Omaha

OMAHA BEACH, France (Agencies) — President Francois Mitterrand thanked the Allies once again for liberating France as D-Day 50th anniversary ceremonies climaxed Monday at the beach where the greatest combined assault in history almost failed.

The Omaha Beach ceremony contained both pageantry and pathos, with marching bands from nine countries, an aviation and naval show, the presence of 19 heads of state and government and poignant testimony from veterans.

Mr. Mitterrand spoke after June 6, 1944 addresses by Supreme Allied Commander Dwight Eisenhower and the leader of the Free French, Charles de Gaulle were broadcast across the sand.

"You have given us freedom and that we owe to you," Mr. Mitterrand said, speaking to Americans, British, Canadians, Dutch, Norwegians, Poles and all other Allies.

But he warned that the struggle continues as "other totalitarian regimes have continued and continue to build on blood and tears the annihilation of what in childhood one takes to be immortal — love, duty and friendship, the rights and respect of others."

He spoke from a monument at the edge of Omaha Beach, where 3,000 U.S. troops died after the June 6 landings when faced with stiff German resistance that almost forced them to retreat.

Mr. Mitterrand was flanked by the 18 other heads of state and government who took part in the commemoration Sunday and Monday, including U.S.

President Bill Clinton, Queen Elizabeth II and Lech Walesa of Poland.

Mr. Clinton joined aging war veterans and the Allied leaders in ceremonies at sites along 80 kilometres of the northern French shore.

Mr. Clinton, who never served in the military himself, joined in six events: A sunrise service aboard an aircraft carrier off the Normandy coast, ceremonies at Utah and Omaha beaches, a cliff-top observance at Pointe du Hoc, a luncheon in Caen, and a somber speech at the Colleville-sur-Mer U.S. cemetery.

Atop a cliff taken in the D-Day invasion, he told veterans that freedom's fight is not finished. "You did your job, now we must do ours," he said.

Mr. Clinton flew on a blustery morning from the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Washington, anchored in the mist-covered English Channel, to Pointe du Hoc.

Mr. Clinton flew on a blustery morning from the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier USS Washington, anchored in the mist-covered English Channel, to Pointe du Hoc.

"The longest day is not yet over," Mr. Clinton told veterans at the spot where U.S. Rangers took the cliffs.

"The longest day is not yet over," he said.

He said the world still must reduce the number of deadly weapons, expand democracy, build strong families, improve education and end conflict.

The Allied landing, the greatest amphibious attack ever launched, turned the tide of war against Nazi Germany



U.S. World War II veterans watch Monday's 50th anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy (AFP photo)

but at terrible cost. On D-Day alone, 10,000 Allied soldiers were killed or wounded, but the allies had a foothold in Europe and Hitler was doomed.

"This event is one of the great events of history, and which has changed the course of history," Mr. Mitterrand said.

He was cheered by 5,000 veterans and several thousand other spectators, comfortably installed in tribunes shielded from the cold by plastic roofs.

They were treated to a show that included U.S., French and Dutch warships making a naval

parade from west to east just off Omaha Beach and a mock landing by five amphibious craft labelled to represent the five beaches stormed by the Allies on D-Day — code-named Utah, Omaha, Gold, Juno and Sword.

Vintage planes from the World War II era such as the wide-winged C-47s used to drop paratroopers and B-17 flying fortress bombers made fly-overs as did modern-day U.S. F-18 fighter-bombers, and French Mirage fighter-bombers.

The planes temporarily drowned out two veterans of

D-Day. American Walter Ehlers told the world leaders bow be and his brother had come ashore at Omaha Beach, but his brother had died.

Frenchman Andre Morel, one of the first French residents to welcome the U.S. troops to Normandy, used heavily accented English to say "Thank you, thank you, thank you" for the liberation.

The stands were full of cheering veterans, those in the U.S. section waving flags and joined by U.S. senators Republican Robert Dole and Democrat John Glenn.

Jordan's economic course going well, but poverty is rising — U.N.

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's adherence to the economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has proved to be an impressive success, with the Kingdom posting good results in 1993, but the poverty level in the country rose sharply since 1989, a United Nations agency report.

A survey conducted by the Amman-based Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) in its member countries noted that Jordan registered an economic growth of 6 per cent in 1993 and managed to reduce the pressure of external debts.

While the economic growth "represents a deceleration from the exceptionally high rate (11 per cent) achieved in 1992, it was still impressive, taking into consideration the prevailing economic conditions in the region," said a summary of the results of the survey made available to the Jordan Times.

"Success in implementing economic and structural adjustment policies enabled the country to reduce its external and internal imbalances and create a favourable investment climate," said the summary.

While Jordan made major strides in addressing its economic problems, the poverty line in the Kingdom went up, the report said. "The number of families living below the poverty line rose by 6.6 per cent in 1992 to 21.3 per cent of the total number of households in the country, up from 18.7 per cent in 1989," it said. The report did not provide the parameters that set the poverty line.

The situation in Jordan was not much different from the general state of affairs in some

of the countries in the ESCWA region, where "the gap between the rich and poor" increased and "the benefits of development were not equally shared."

"The majority of the poor and the rural population continue to be deprived and marginalised in most countries of the ESCWA region," the report said. "The gap has been aggravated by structural imbalances and income disparities among countries of the region, between rural and urban populations."

"Inequitable distribution of resources at the regional level, inadequate energy supplies, water shortages, lack of food security and external debts in some countries of the region further aggravated the problem of poverty. In the field of social welfare, the poor have been suffering from inequitable distribution of benefits and services, unemployment and increasing poverty."

Jordan was among the ESCWA countries where economic reform remained a major concern and gained momentum in 1993, it said.

The Kingdom turned to the IMF in 1988 for help when the burden of foreign debts, which then stood at nearly \$8.4 billion, scrambled its economy on. The IMF stepped in with an economic restructuring and recovery programme which the Kingdom followed.

As a result, Jordan's foreign debts now stand at around \$6.6 billion, part of it already rescheduled, and a realignment of the overall economic system, including subsidies, government-owned entities and services, the banking system and the taxation structure, has made considerable headway.

The summary of the ESCWA survey noted that the

Kingdom succeeded in achieving a continued economic growth in 1993, boding inflation in abeyance at below 5 per cent, reducing unemployment by about 4 per cent to 11 per cent, improving the overall budgetary situation, meeting current expenditures and a large part of capital expenditures from domestic revenues, and rescheduling part of the nearly \$4 billion debt owed to the Paris Club of creditor governments and \$895 million owed to the London Club of commercial banks.

It said expatriate remittances had improved as a result of the return of some Jordanian workers to the Gulf states or alternate employment opportunities. However, despite the decline in the unemployment rate in the Kingdom, joblessness remained a major problem, it said.

"High economic growth and the significant success achieved in reducing external and internal imbalances" contributed to reducing unemployment in the country, but the situation continues to pose a challenge, it said. The positive and negative points noted in the ESCWA survey included:

— Wheat production declined by 29.3 per cent in Jordan during the year 1993;

— Jordan, along with Egypt and Lebanon, were three ESCWA countries where demand for oil went up during the year;

— Literacy rate among women rose to around 70 per cent in the Kingdom;

— The International Finance Corporation, an arm of the World Bank, ranked the Amman Financial Market, the Jordanian bourse, as "an emerging one among 20 other markets in the developing world" because of the improved level of activities and dealing standards.

are not convinced the terms will be fair," he added.

Palestinian businessmen say harsh criticism by PLO economic chief Ahmad Qureia of joint ventures last week was prompted by a series of wrangles over who had agency rights for international brand names in Palestinian self-rule areas.

PLO officials have told multi-national firms manufacturing soft drinks and automobiles they will not allow Israeli agents to distribute their products in Gaza and Jericho.

Israeli businessmen canvassed Western donors for a share in aid projects when the PLO clammed up several months ago. They say the PLO must give something in return for an economic pact that opened up Israeli markets to Palestinian goods.

"These nationalist views are

Turkey to pay part of Iraqi oil proceeds to U.N.

NICOSIA (AP) — Turkey has agreed to pay the United Nations 30 per cent of the value of Iraqi oil it wants to flush from pipelines following a diplomatic scrap with the United States, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday.

But the authoritative oil industry newsletter, published in Nicosia, stressed: "It is too early to speak of a done deal on the subject between Turkey and the United States, or the United Nations."

"A good deal of negotiation remains to be accomplished, and the issue still has to be presented to the U.N. Security Council, which could require the passage of a new resolution."

Turkey, a key member of the U.S.-led coalition which drove the Iraqis out of Kuwait in February 1991, has been seeking to improve links with Baghdad in recent months.

It has proposed flushing out the two 900-kilometre pipelines, which run from the Kirkuk oilfields in northern Iraq to Turkey's Ceyhan terminal on the Mediterranean.

Ankara, which is grappling with a major economic crisis, wants to use the oil trapped in the pipelines to alleviate its financial problems. It claims it has lost \$20 billion because of the U.N. embargo.

The scheme was opposed by the United States and other members of the U.N. Security Council, even though Ankara claimed Baghdad would not benefit financially from it.

But the dispute has other political ramifications as Baghdad has intensified its efforts to split the coalition and have the sanctions eased, or lifted.

Ankara has hinted it might stop allowing U.S., British and French warplanes to be based in Turkey to protect Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq from Iraqi forces after Washington cut its financial aid until Tur-

key improves its human rights record. This has strained U.S.-Turkish relations.

The Americans have also been pressing Ankara to do more to find a settlement to reunify Cyprus, which has been divided since Turkey invaded in 1974 and seized the northern one-third of the island.

Under the deal arranged by Turkey and Iraq, the oil would be used by Ankara to refine for domestic consumption, provide Baghdad with humanitarian supplies permitted under the embargo and repay Turkish debts. Baghdad was to get no outright financial payments.

MEES said the deal envisaged that Turkey would do that it wants with the oil in its end of the pipelines, while the value of the remainder would be split 60-40 in Turkey's favour, with no provision for paying anything to the U.N. compensation fund, which has the right to one-third of Iraqi oil revenue to defray its post-war operating expenses.

The pipelines were closed when the United Nations imposed trade sanctions on Iraq in August 1990 for invading Kuwait.

They contain an estimated 11 to 13 million barrels of Iraqi crude — eight to nine million in the Turkish sector, and legally owned by Turkey, and three to four million on the Iraqi side. Altogether, the oil is worth around \$300 million at current prices.

MEES quoted "authoritative sources" as saying Turkey has agreed to pay 30 per cent of the value of the pipeline oil to the U.N. compensation fund set up after the 1991 Gulf war to pay reparations to victims of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Ankara would also pay "undefined additional sums" to cover the cost of U.N. operations in Iraq, the weekly newsletter reported.

COLUMN

Roof saves boy in fall from high-rise

TOKYO (R) — A Japanese schoolboy survived a 27-metre (88-foot) fall from the 10th floor of a building Monday after landing on the zinc roof of a bicycle shed, a spokesman for the Tokyo Fire Department said. Morio Kobayashi, 16, was taken to hospital with a broken right arm after the accident but his life was not in danger. He lost his balance while sitting on a railing at the edge of the top storey of the 10-floor condominium where he lived.

Hundreds flock to Pushkin's tomb

PUSHKINSKY GORI, Russia (AFP) — Hundreds of people flocked from all over Russia this weekend to pay homage to the country's national poet, Alexander Pushkin, on the 150th anniversary of his birth. A three-day festival, now in its 28th year, attracted artists, writers and dignitaries as well as ordinary lovers of the poet to his tomb in the monastery of this little town 600 kilometres (375 miles) northwest of Moscow. Most of them, either formally reciting or just in conversation, were able to quote long passages of Pushkin's verses with passion, convinced that he is not really dead. "Pushkin still lives in each of us," said Moscow writer Pyotr Proskurin, author of numerous orthodox novels in the Soviet era praising the simple peasantry and the heroism of Russian soldiers. "Pushkin is like Jesus Christ, like a religion," he said. "While hostility to Russia helps us to keep alive the idea of a Russia great and proud."

Another writer, Mikhail Labanov, expressed the wish that the name of Pushkin serve as a rallying cry for Russians who felt downcast by the collapse of the Soviet Union. But other authors present at the festival were wary of such nationalist sentiments. "The main question facing Russians today is that of their identity," said Moscow poet Marina Kudimova.

10-year-old graduates from university

MOBILE, Alabama (AFP) — A 10-year-old boy received his diploma from an Alabama University Sunday, becoming the youngest American to graduate from college. Michael Kearney, who graduated from high school at six, said the next step was graduate school. "I've been sending applications in. Anybody who wants to have a 10-year-old graduate student who's soon to be 11, I'm here," he said after receiving his degree in anthropology from the University of South Alabama. Kearney, who graduated with honours and a better-than-B-plus grade average, was also the youngest American to graduate high school and enter college, according to the Guinness Book of Records. An 11-year-old boy graduated from the University of California, Santa Cruz in 1988. Kearney's mother, who attended classes with the boy because he had trouble writing fast enough to take notes, said he wanted a car for his graduation present. "I told him, 'you can't drive it until you're 16.' He said, 'that's okay, when I can, it'll still be in mint condition'."

Hillary Clinton's wardrobe panned by French

ROME (AP) — Uncharacteristically, the White House went out of its way to talk up Hillary Rodham Clinton's wardrobe on her visit to Rome. It turns out that Italian fashion critics weren't impressed. "Gutsy but without style," Laura Biagiotti, a top Italian designer, said in reviewing a succession of bright pink, turquoise and black outfits worn by Mrs. Clinton. "Fashion stayed at home." The American first lady was in Italy with President Clinton to honour U.S. soldiers who fought in key battles of World War II 50 years ago. La Repubblica's verdict on Mrs. Clinton's wardrobe: "She is beautiful, clever, relentless — but she is not elegant." It said her clothes were "uncertain creations" and "lacking in imagination." La Stampa objected that Mrs. Clinton, for her audience with Pope John Paul II, tied her black mantle, or veil, under her chin to look like a bonnet. It said that was absurd.